

ORIGINAL COMIC ANTHOLOGY

CRAFT

vol.47

2011

COVER: 湖水きよ

ク・ラ・フ・ト

友
達
来
満

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Riyo Komizu

Kotetsuko Yamamoto

Momoko Terzen

Nana Inoue

Huku Okuyama

Yuka Kobayashi

Kento Tanoshita

Rihito Takarai

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月村 奎

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守井 章

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Akene Kitahata

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松田美優 &
湖水きよ

山本小鉄子

天禅桃子

井上ナヲ

奥山ぶく

羽生山へび子

sayoko

木下けい子

宝井理人

九號

橘 紅緒 &
北畠あけ乃

小笠原宇紀

CRAFT



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月村 奎 CUT/守井 章

湖水きよ

47

大洋図書



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Kyuuugou

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CRAFT

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松田美優 &

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Kiyoko Konishi

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Fukuh Okuyama

山本小鉄子

Kobetsuko Yamamoto

羽生山へび子

Hibiki Hanyama

sayoko

Sayoko

井上ナヲ

Nano Inoue

真生るいす

Rui Mori

宝井理人

Ryūto Takahashi

翳りゆく季節のなかで……



九號
松田美優 & 湖水きよ
木下けい子
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フ・ラ・フ・ト

Kyugo, Miyu Matsuda, Kiya Komizu, Keiko Kinoshita
Puku Okuyama, Kotetsuko Yamamoto, Heike Hasegawa
Sayoko Nawa Inoue, Rits Maki
Riito Takarai, Kei Tsukimura, Akira Morii

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COMICS 1000000

至近距離の片想い



171 紅花 178 花のうた

185 花のうた

191 花のうた

207 花のうた

213 花のうた

229 花のうた

235 花のうた

241 花のうた

247 花のうた

253 花のうた

259 花のうた

265 花のうた

271 花のうた

277 花のうた

283 花のうた

289 花のうた



ORIGINAL COMIC ANTHOLOGY

CRAFT

ク・ラ・フ・ト

2011
vol. 48

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- 037 カラメル—————奥山ぷく
- 061 雨の中からやってきたー小笠原宇紀
- 099 僕の先輩～真夏の夜の悪夢編～——羽生山へび子
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CUT: 守井 章

*I've been looking for an answer
for a long time.*



Here,

in a rut,

Chapter 1

Embrace the Sky and Sleep

I'm waiting for...

...something.

by
Kyuugou









DAMN IT

I'M GOING
TO BE LATE

GRANDPA,
I'M GOING

Third year in
high school

OH,

TAKE
CARE

Between
spring and
summer.

Dash

Boring high
school life
had become a
part of me.

Ordinary
landscape.

Ordinary
life.

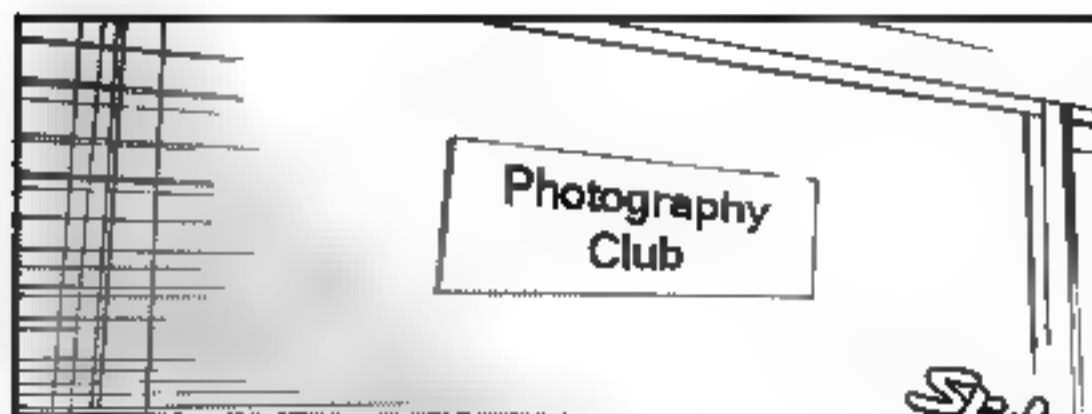
3 - 3



Without any incidents or problems, the countdown began to the end of my highschool life.







To be thinking
like that, I
guess I was still
a sulky little
child back then.

Slide

OH, BOSS.
GOOD T.MING

KASAHARA-SAN.

WHAT'S UP
WITH ALL
THAT STUFF?



I WAS
THINKING
ABOUT
GOING UP TO
THE ROOF

YEAH.

IS IT
FOR THE
SCHOOL
FESTIVAL
EXHIBIT?

Phew!

THUMP

LH-
MUT..



THESE ARE
NEGATIVES LEFT
HERE BY FORMER
STUDENTS. THE
TEACHER WANTED
ME TO SORT
THEM OUT



You mean roof as
in the roof top of
the south building?
That one?!

LIAM...
YES..

Fek

WHAT?!

Flinch

WHOA!



WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
GOING FOR
A SHOOT?

YEAH.



YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO UP TO
THE ROOF OF
THE SOUTH
BUILDING,
BOSS



THERE'S
SOMETHING THERE.



YOU KNOW
IT COULD
ONLY BE
ONE THING

I SUPPOSE
I SHOULD
ASK...
WHY?

Pretending
like you
don't
know

You are
way, too
close



WHY?

I REALIZE
IT'S NOT
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC,
BUT I GOT
PERMIS-
SION

THAT'S
NOT THE
PROBLEM

SEE,
I HAVE
THE KEY

Don't come crying
to me when your
pictures have
something weird in
them.



OH RIGHT
THERE WAS
A STORY
LIKE THAT

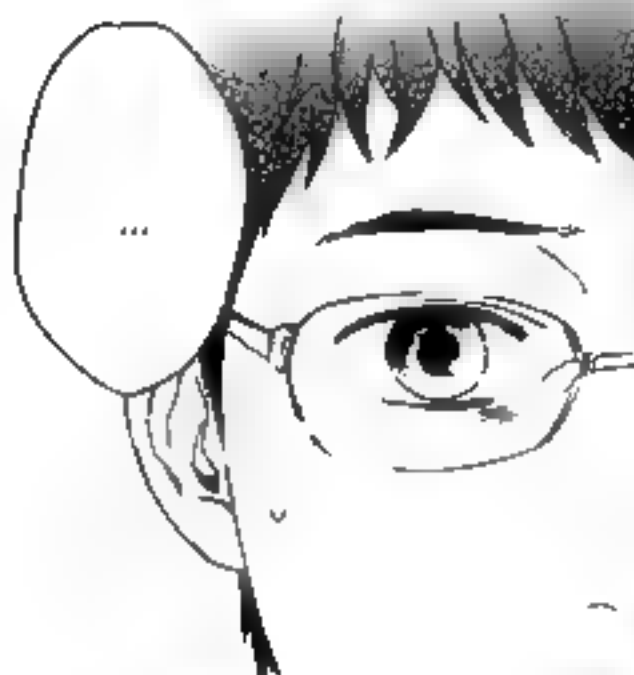
THE GHOSTS
OF THE
TWINS WHO
JUMPED OFF
AND KILLED
THEMSELVES
THREE
YEARS
AGO!

GHOSTS,
OF COURSE!

Exhibit pieces
those who haven't
submitted yet

Due by 25th

- Nishio
- Takase
- Tanaka

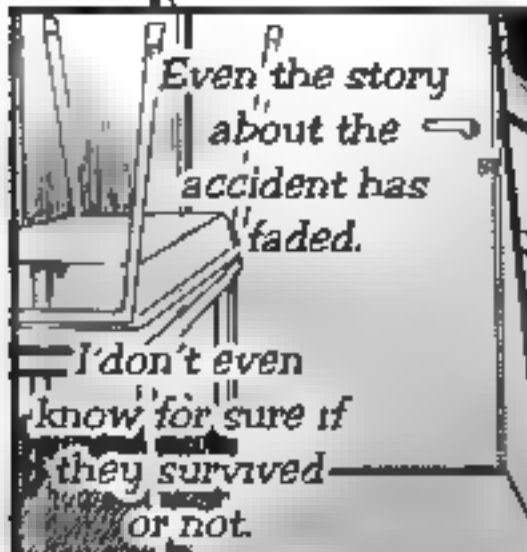


BUT

...THERE ARE
WITNESSES!

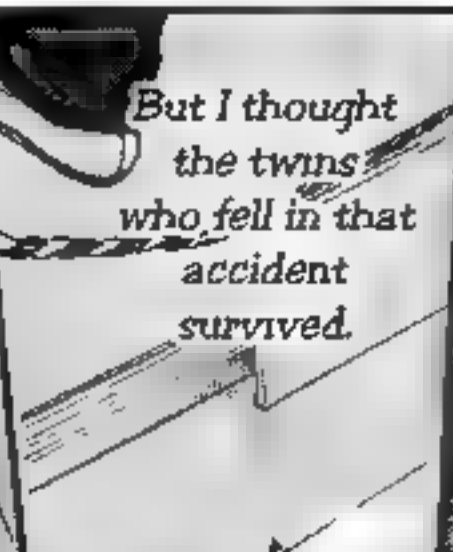
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT
IN THE
FIRST PLACE

ISN'T IT
A KIND OF
AN URBAN
LEGEND?

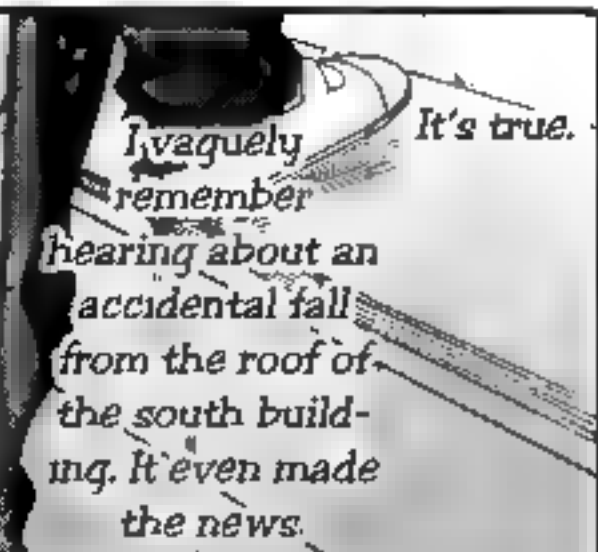


Even the story
about the
accident has
faded.

I don't even
know for sure if
they survived
or not.



But I thought
the twins
who fell in that
accident
survived.



I vaguely
remember
hearing about an
accidental fall
from the roof of
the south build-
ing. It even made
the news.

It's true.

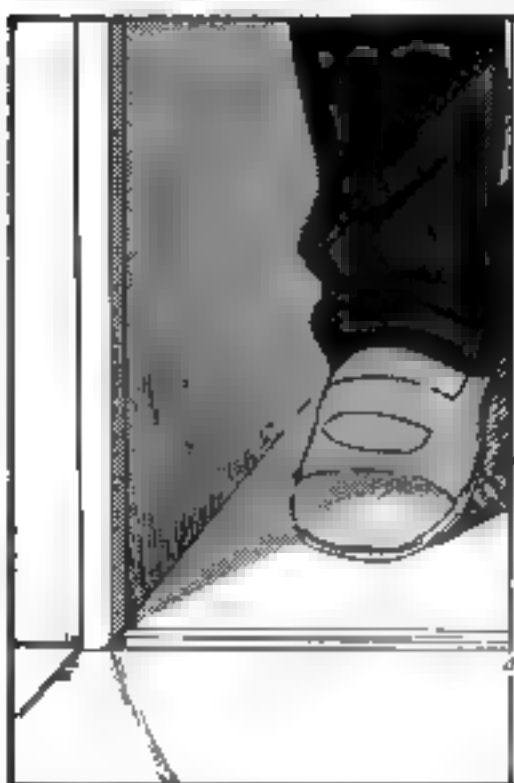


?!

THE LOCK
IS OFF



It's just an
exaggeration
of the truth.

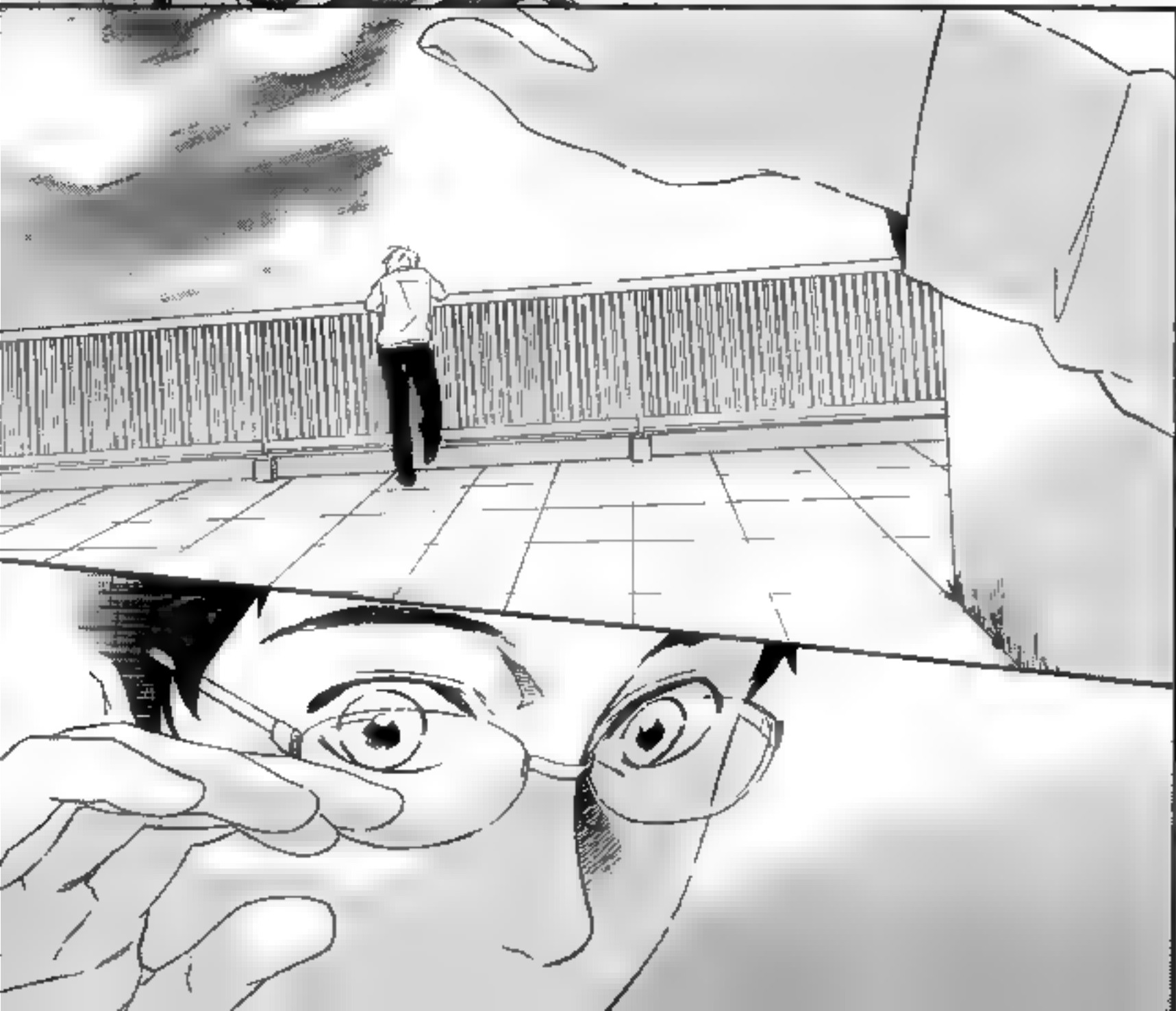


Creak



It was...











WHAT?



WHO ARE YOU?



I know I exist.



He doesn't even...

My bad.



CLASS AS YOU.

SAME



AH

LAAA.



FIRST YEAR, MAYBE?

Shock











JUST FOR 5
MINUTES,
THOUGH

FINE

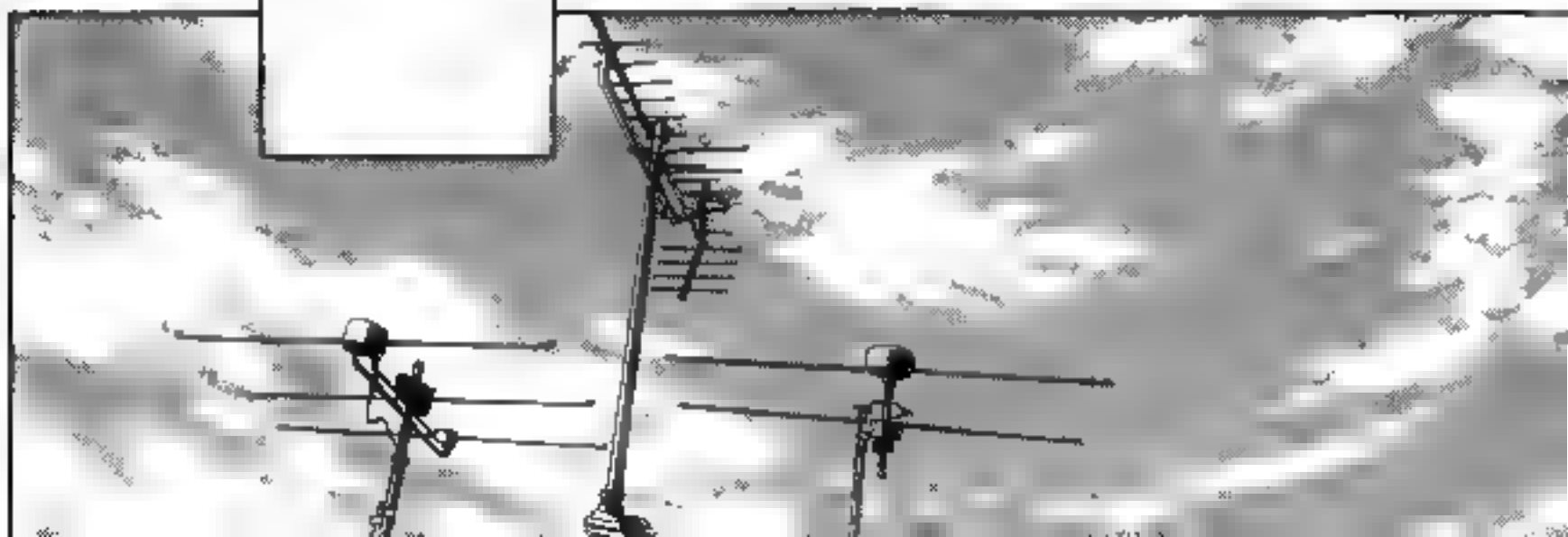
WHAT?

AFTER THAT,
YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE
TO PAY



Why did I...

...stop
him then?





UWA

COULD YOU...
MAYBE..

WHAT,
DO I HAVE
TO STRIKE A
POSE OR
SOMETHING?

NO, BUT..
YOU KNOW



For
what?

START
ANYTIME.

Impulse?



NATURAL?

It was
just that...



IF YOU COULD
NOT LOOK AT
THE CAMERA.

JUST BE
NATURAL.

...the sunset
was so
bright.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT YOU
MEAN BY
NATURAL

SNAP
Click

HEY!

So bright.

DID YOU
JUST TAKE
ONE?!

The
ordinary
landscape...

I AM GOING
TO
TAKE
ONE
NOW

SNAP
Click

...slowly
turned to
a brilliant
shade
of red.

OH

IF YOU'RE
GONNA TAKE
ONE YOU
GOTTA
TELL ME!

SORRY



Everything
about this
place...



...felt like a stage meant just for him.



DO YOU WANT TO GO BROKE?

Squish

Smirk

BUT IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE 3 MINUTES.

YASHIRO-KUN,

THERE YOUR FIVE MINUTES ARE UP

GAP

GAP

HUH?

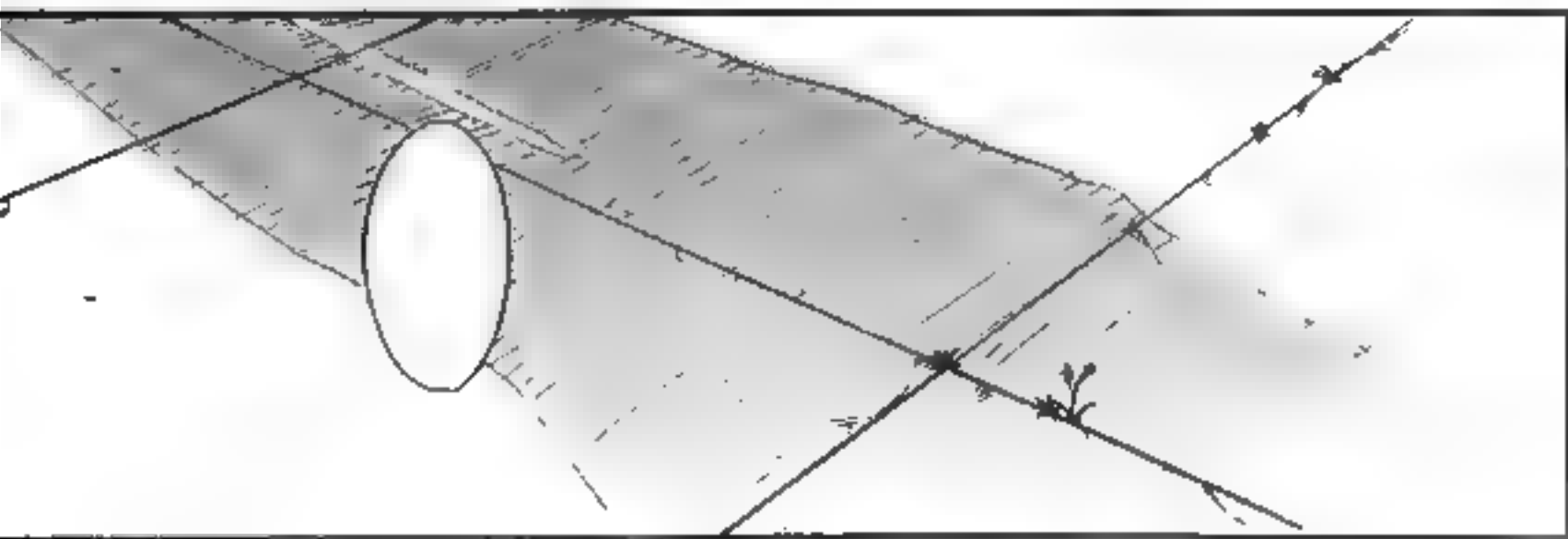
HEY

DON'T FORGET TO LOCK UP

BYE

YEAH







Ichinose

201

OH YEAH,

I KNOW HIM.

I THINK I
WAS IN
THE SAME
CLASS AS
HIM UNTIL
SECOND
YEAR

Click







WHY DON'T
YOU MAKE
ME?



Creak

SO? WHAT
ABOUT
THIS GUY?

NOTHING.

I JUST
TALKED
TO HIM,
THAT'S ALL.



WHAT?

COULD
YOU BE
ANY LESS
ENTHUSI-
ASTIC?

Creak

HUH?





*Make fun
of me.*



Ridicule me.



What?





I can't
hear you

Kel







It's not like
anything
has changed.

With Ichinose...

I thought
we shared
a secret.

He's
sleeping.

I HATE
HIM.

Not to
mention he
called me
a dork.

SCRIBBLE

Tsk.

SO ICHINOSE
AND OZU ARE
FRIENDS

I guess
nothing will
happen...

EVEN
THOUGH
THEY'RE IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES

...with
Ichinose
ever again.

BOSS,

WHY ARE
YOU MOPING
ABOUT IN THE
CLUB OFFICE?

Mopey

AH, THAT
VOICE. IT'S
KASAHARA-
SAN

But
you're
the club
leader.

...

I DON'T
FEEL LIKE
IT TODAY..

Everyone take
whatever photos
you want.

If you are
submitting,
make sure to
meet the dead-
line of 25th.

UH-
UH

EVERYONE
ELSE IS OUTSIDE
TAKING PHOTOS

Crash

FINE
THEN

WHAT?

ALL OF
THESE?!

HELP
ME SORT
THESE OUT

WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

ARE YOU
READY FOR
THE SCHOOL
FESTIVAL?





ARE THESE ..

...TWINS, DO
YOU THINK?

Entrance
2006



*That's what
Ichinose said.*

*"I was
praying."*

To
whom?

For
what?

I wonder
if he's
praying
again
today...





...in a place
where he
would be...



...awash in
the sunset.

Embrace the Sky and Sleep



Kei!

What are you
doing, Kei?!



Hey,
Roku.





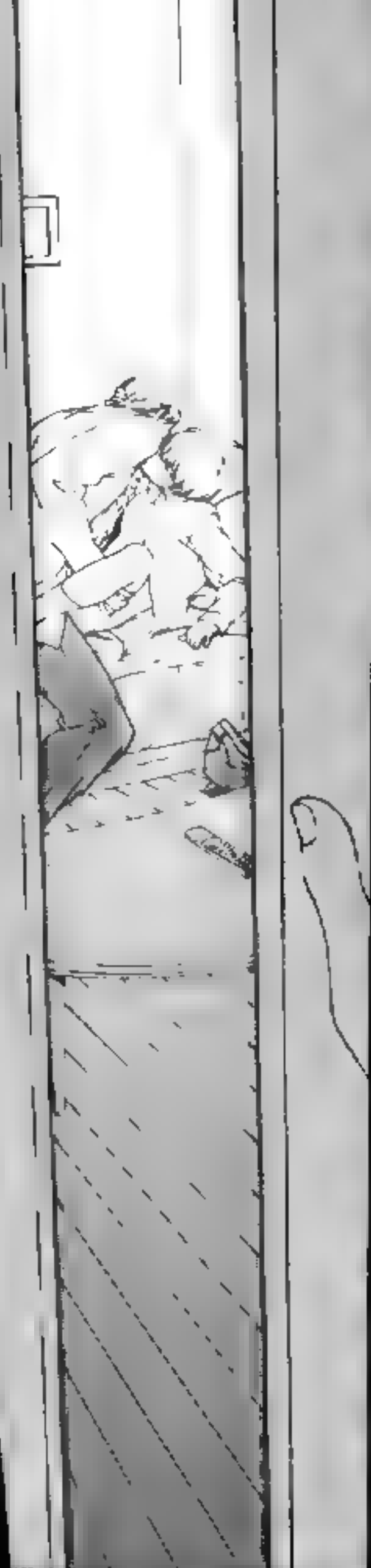
...we were
born in two
separate
bodies?

Why do
you
think...



We were one
to begin
with.









ROKU.

Embrace the sky and sleep



One day, Shuji Yashiro, an ordinary high school student, went to take pictures on the rooftop rumored to be haunted by the ghosts of twins. That was where he met his classmate Roku Ichinose, whom he always considered to be someone belonging to a completely different world. He couldn't take his eyes off Roku's face, and took his picture on impulse. The following day, while he was organizing old photos in the clubroom, Shuji found a shocking photograph





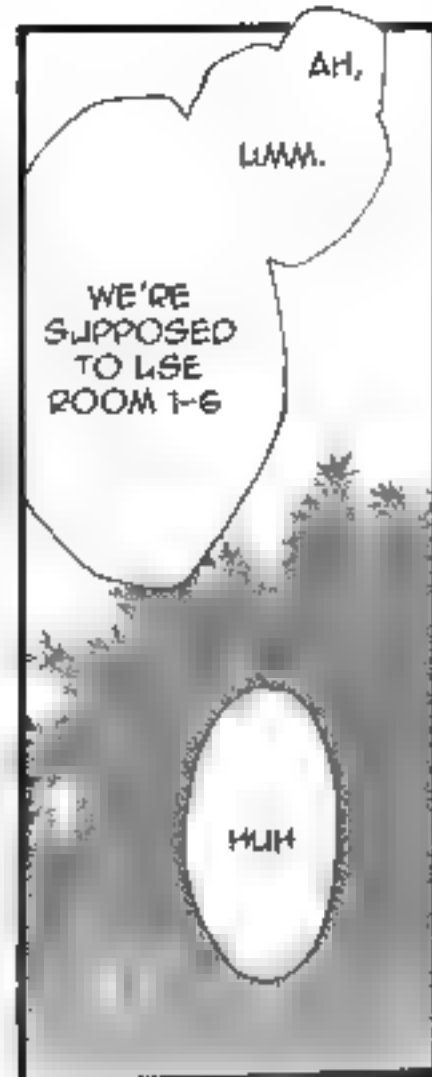


IF I'M DYING OF BOREDOM, I'LL COME SEE THEM.



YEAH, PLEASE DO

AH!



AH, LAAA.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO USE ROOM 1-6

HUH



EXCUSE...



YAWN



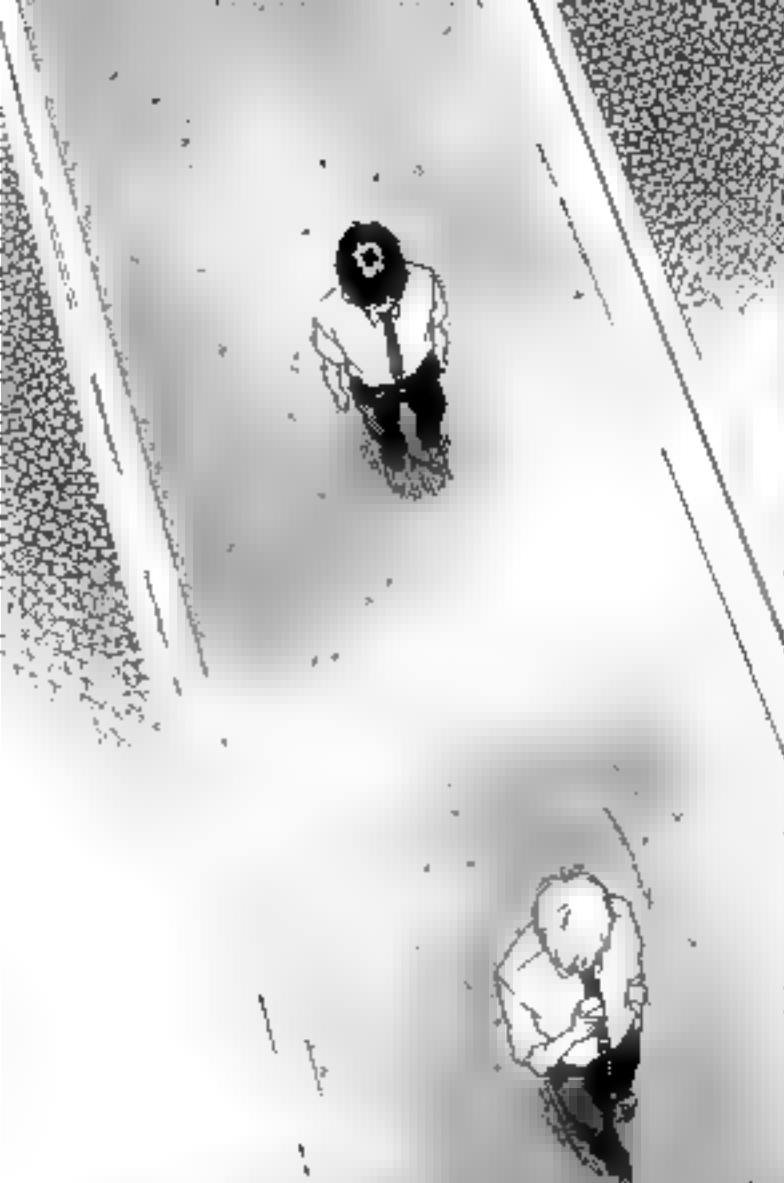
YEAH?



ME..









SHUT UP



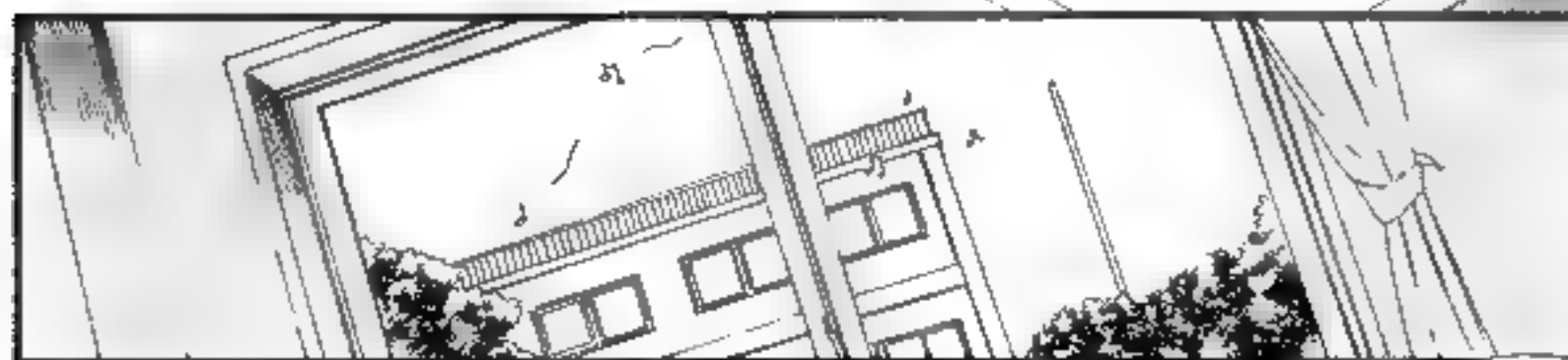
Ah, a bit
to the
right.

HA!



Minami
High School Festival

SO STUPID.





The more I
look at it,



We're
having an
exhibition.
Please
come check
it out.

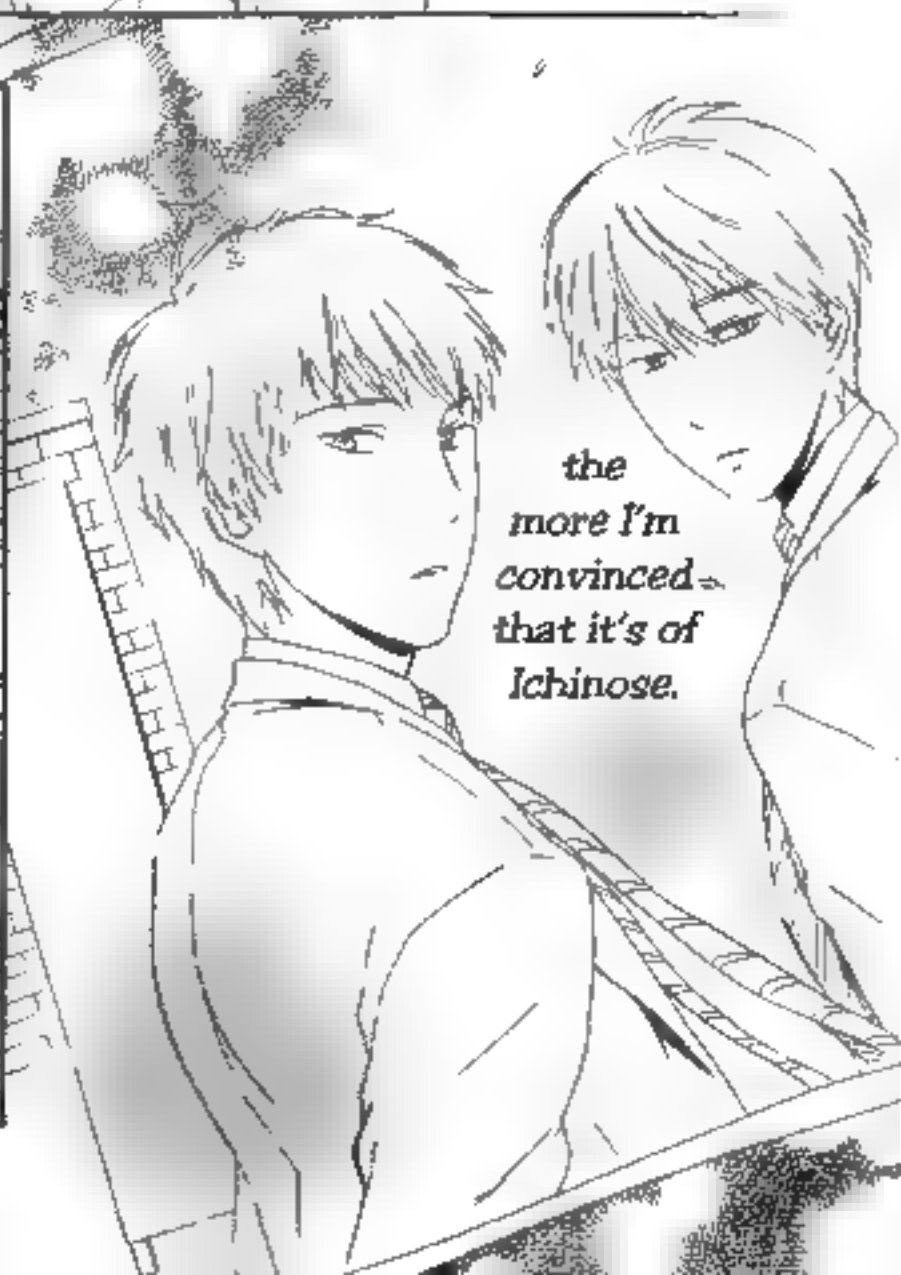
...that
picture is
three years
old.

That would
make him
a year
ahead of me,

but I've never
heard that he
repeated a
grade.

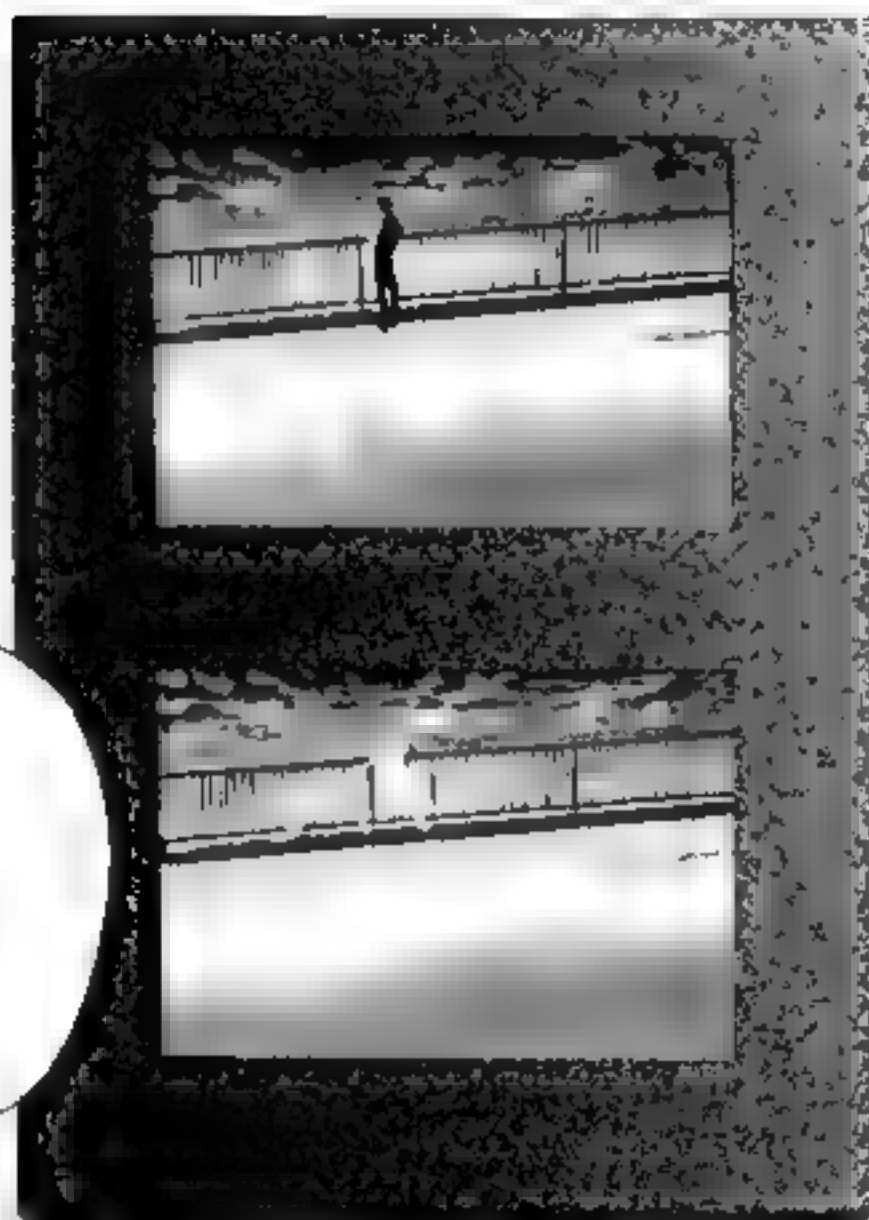


But...



the
more I'm
convinced
that it's of
Ichinose.

OOOOH,
DEEP



Madder Suicide
Shun Yashiro 3rd year

The
picture of
the twins.

Oh hey!
But no—Don't skip
one's here your work!
Ha ha!
We're
the next
shift.

Ichinose
on the
rooftop.

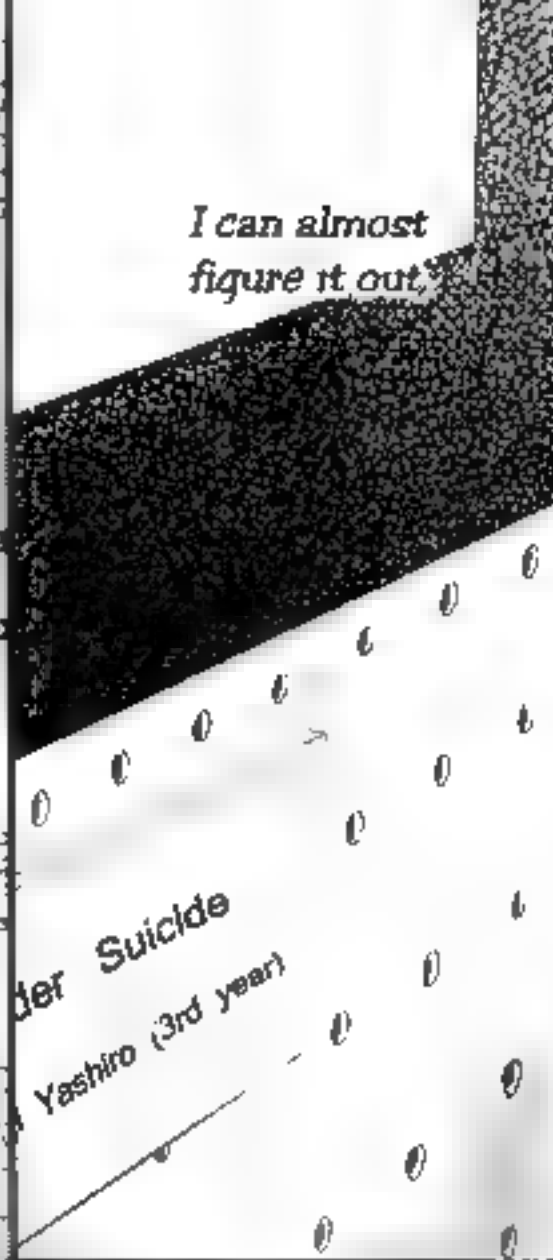
THIS IS THE
ONE YOU
TOOK ON THE
ROOFTOP,
RIGHT?

IT'S SO
DEEP IT'S
ALMOST
CREEPY

The suicide
incident that
happened two
years ago.



but then my
thoughts
circle back to
the beginning



I can almost
figure it out

der Suicide
Yashiro (3rd year)



Ring

Ring







Creak

I'm fine

I heard from
Dr Kimura
the other day

IT'S
YOUR MOM.

He said you
haven't been to
counseling lately

MIRRORS

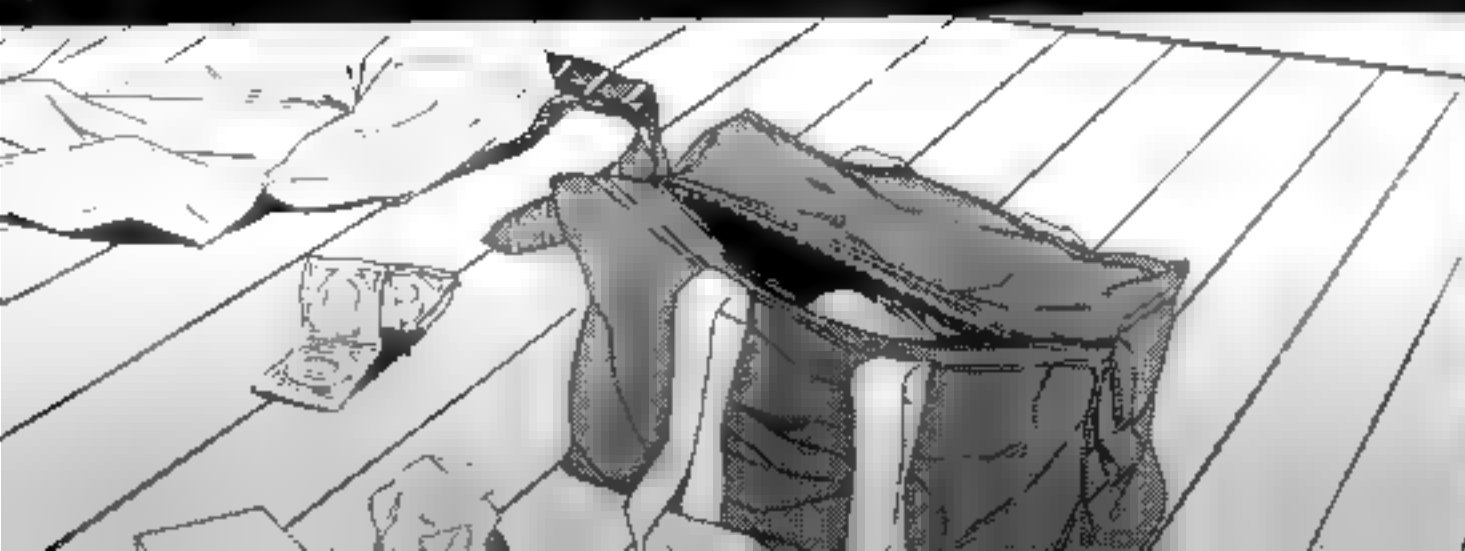
YOU'RE
SCARED OF
THEM, RIGHT?

Don't decide
on your own
Go see Dr
Kimura at
least one
more
time?

WHAT, ARE
YOU STILL
MESSED UP?



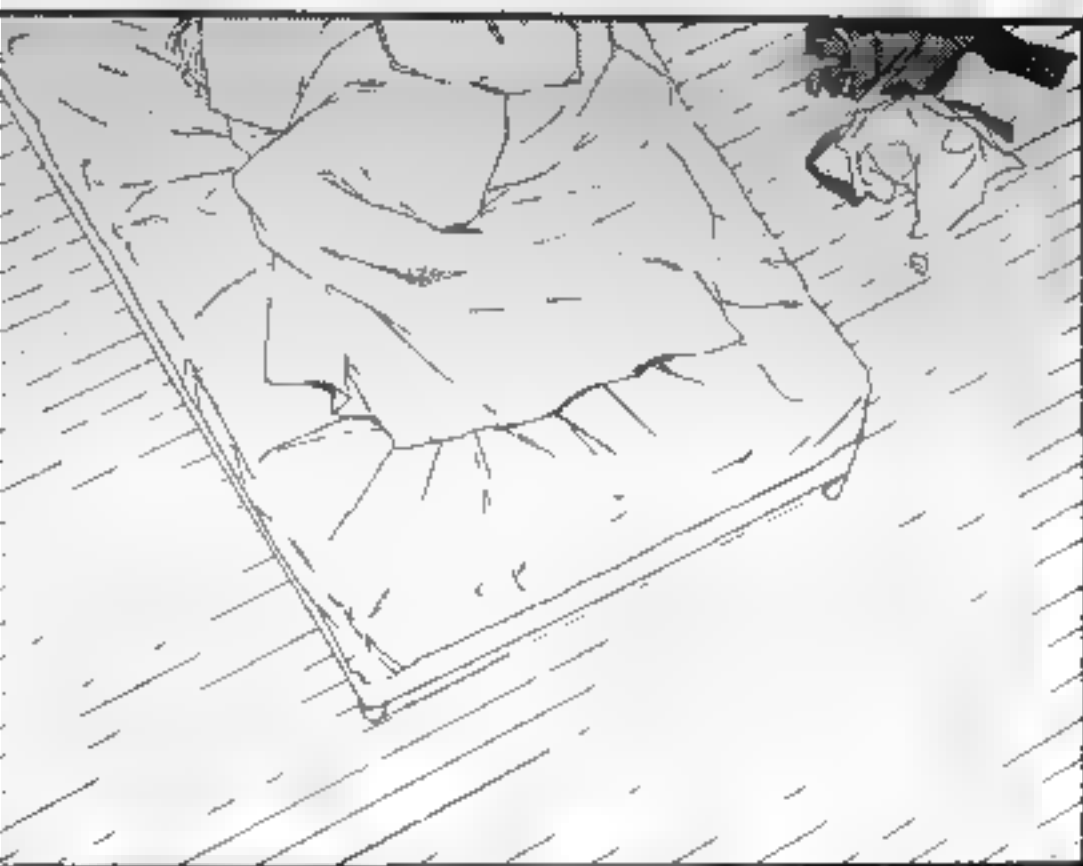
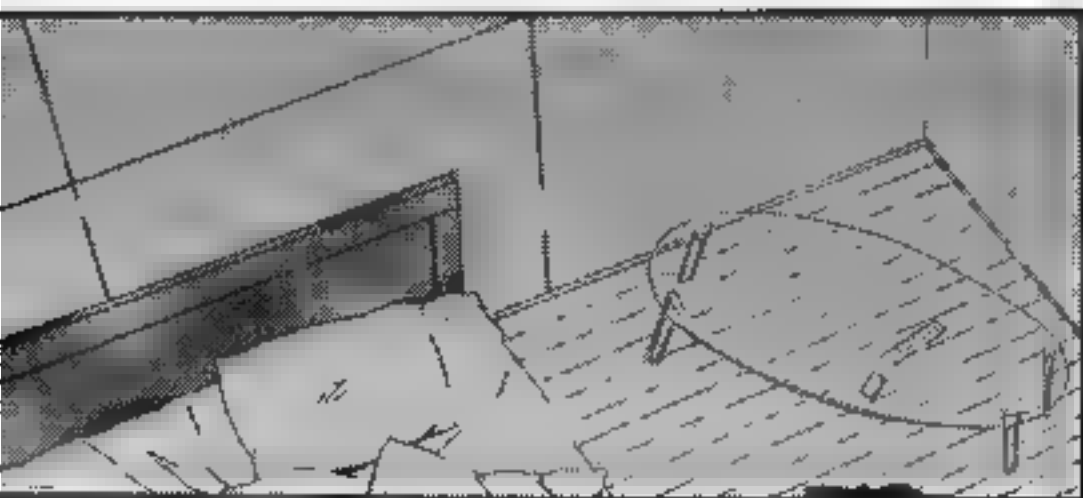




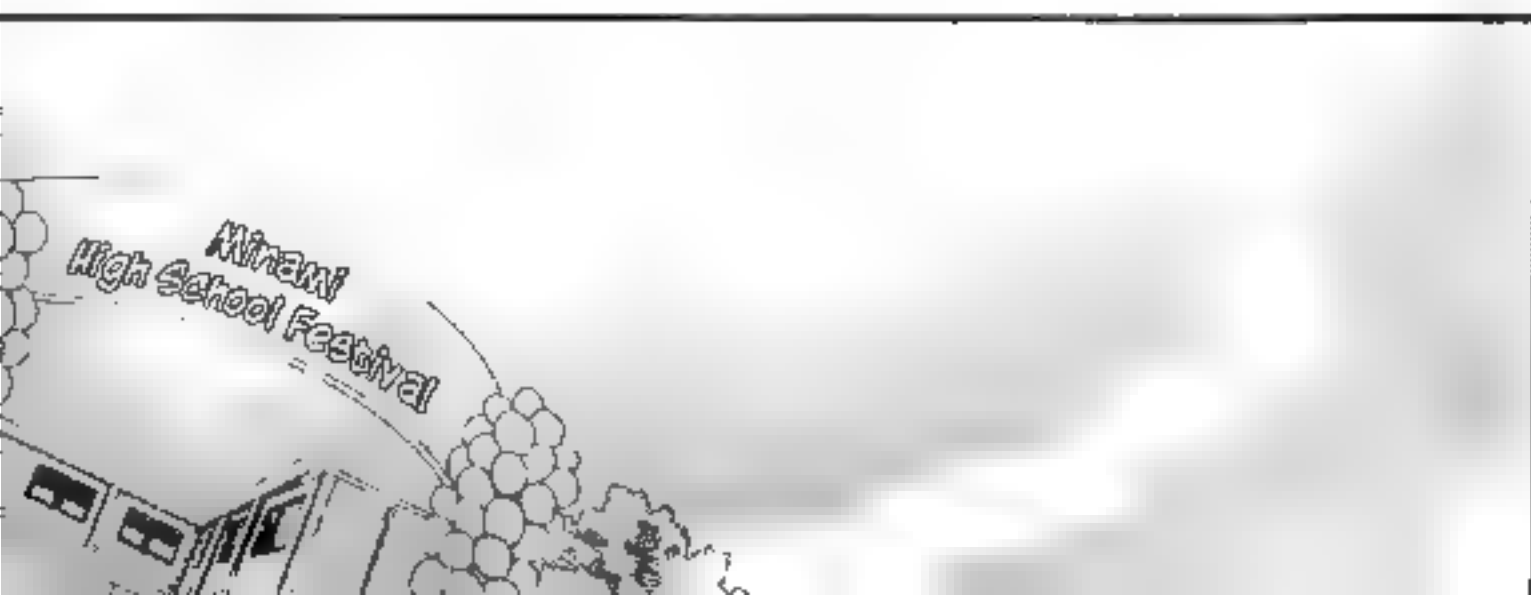


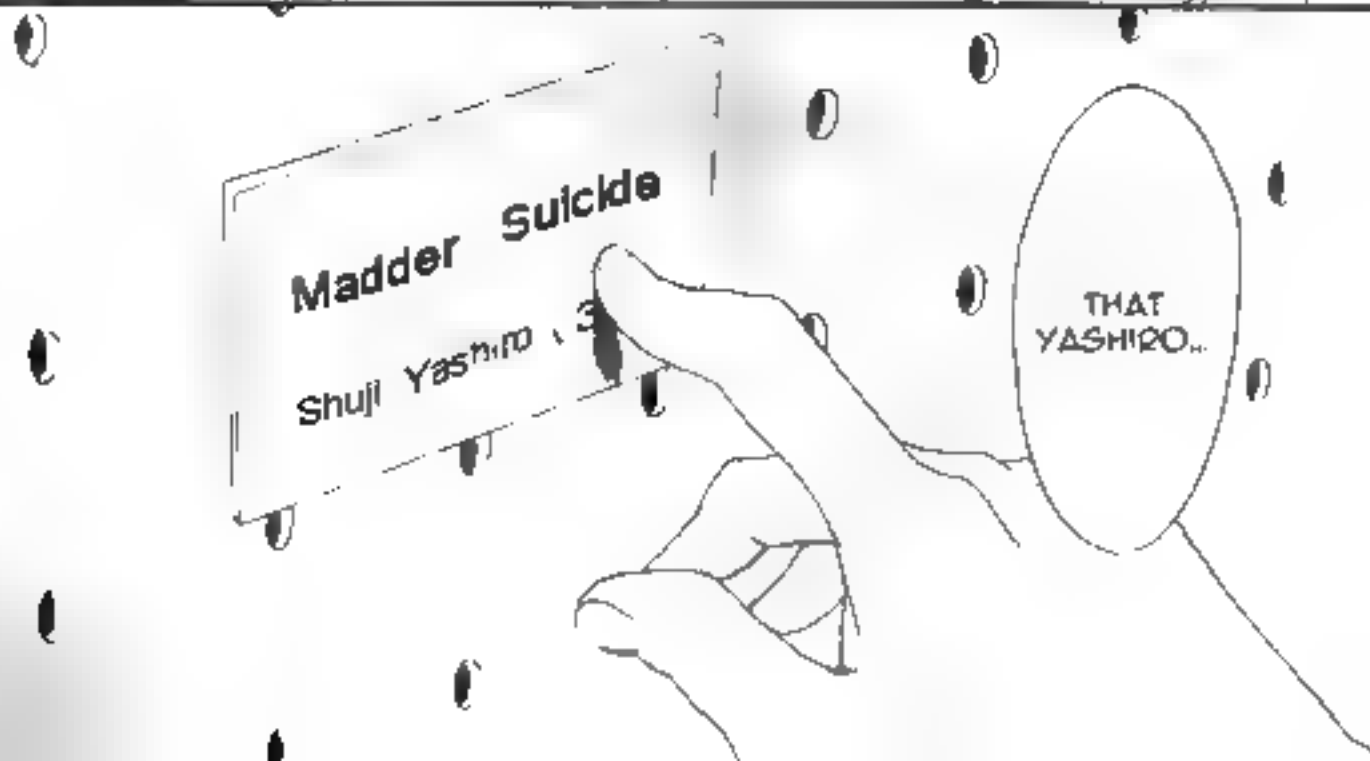














PICTURES

I WANT TO
SEE THEM
WHEN THEY'RE
DONE.



A black and white manga-style illustration of a young man with short, dark hair and round glasses. He is looking down at a handheld electronic device he is holding with both hands. The device has a screen and several buttons. The background is a plain, light color.

Whatever
it is...

A black and white illustration of a wide landscape. In the foreground, there is a flat, open field with some sparse vegetation. In the middle ground, there is a long, low fence or wall that stretches across the width of the image. Above the fence, the sky is filled with large, billowing clouds. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

...that he's
praying for?

The End of Chapter 2

Embrace the Sky and Sleep

For Roku,
there is the
near-death
experience
from the
accident...

...and the
emotional
trauma of
Kei's death.

Post
Traumatic Stress
Disorder... PTSD.

Flashbacks,
hallucinations,
hearing voices;
this can lead to
self-mutilation
and destructive
behavior.

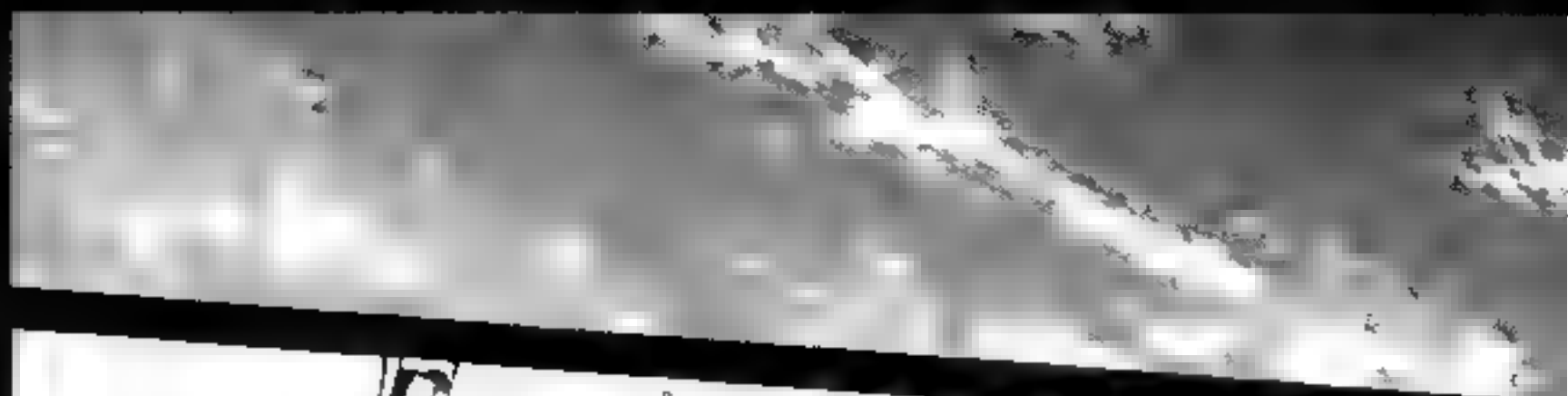
Hey, Roku,

do you think I'm
going crazy?



*..I went crazy a
long time ago..*

*Then I
guess...*



The sky.



A red sky..

Maddeningly
red.





The reaching
hand swiped
through the
air along
with the body,



and then
obeyed
the law of
gravity.

Embrace the sky and sleep

Chapter 2

Emotions and Memories tangle together...

九 KYUGO 號



Slide

Kousei!

! Punch

SHIT

If you miss
your brother
that bad!

AH!

UGH!

DISGUST-
ING!
STOP IT,
YOU
JERK!

DO SOME
FREAK NG
CHORES,
you
idiot!

KIDS
SHOULDN'T
BE SMOK NG!

Swing

Slam

I'LL WRING
YOUR NECK IF
YOU DON'T GET
IN HERE IN 30
SECONDS!

UGH

I KNEW
YOU'D BE
HERE!

Crap!

Sis!





But the
reason I
named it
that..

I knew
nothing about
it and called
it "Madder
Suicide."

flip
flip

...

I wonder
what he
thought
of it?

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE GIVEN IT
A TITLE LIKE
THAT

八代宗
YASHIRO S

DO
YOU..

PROJECT
THE
TRUTH?

SOICHI
八代宗

...

It was
because I
felt like I
had no
choice.

flip

just like how I
said "Hi" to you
every morning
and every night..

Dad,

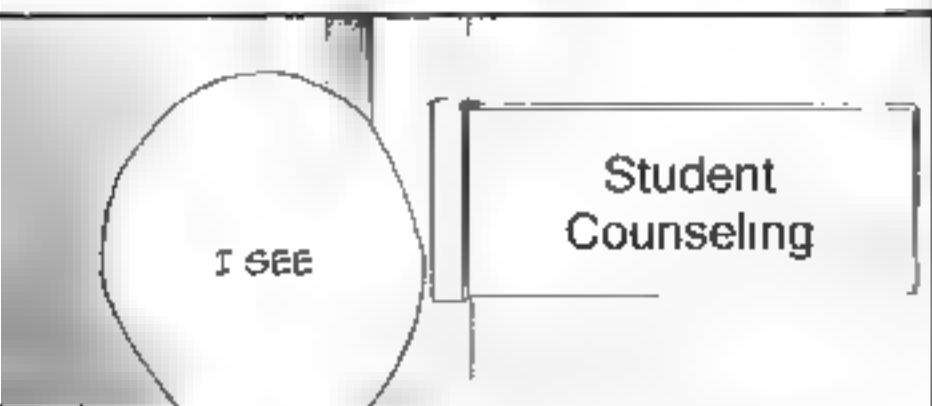
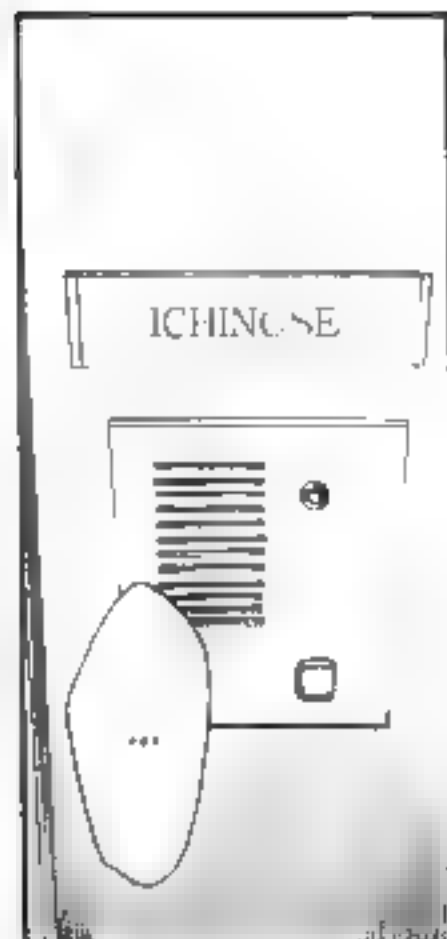
That day,

I felt...

as if...

is Ichinose doing
the same thing
up there..?







IT WAS A BIG
DEAL BACK THEN,
EVEN FOR THE
SCHOOL ITSELF

THERE WAS
A LOT OF
TALK ABOUT
SAFETY
POSSIBLY
EVEN BULLY-
ING AND ALL
THAT

IT HAD ALL
SORT OF DIED
DOWN BY THE
TIME ROKU CAME
BACK TO SCHOOL
A YEAR LATER

A YEAR?

!

WHEN HE CAME
BACK, SOME
KIDS STARTED
TALKING

BUT MOST
OF THEM
TREATED
HIM LIKE
HE WAS
SOMETHING
FRAGILE

THAT
MUST BE
WHY TALKING
ABOUT THE
ACCIDENT
IS TABOO
AROUND
HERE.

WELL, I
GUESS YOU
WOULDN'T

YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW?

HE'S
REPEATING
THE GRADE.

YEAH

...



THAT'S
PROBABLY
WHY THERE
ARE PEOPLE
LIKE YOU WHO
KNOW NOTHING
ABOUT IT

ESPECIALLY IN
THE 10TH AND
11TH GRADES

I BET THERE
ARE SOME
WHO'VE NEVER
EVEN HEARD
ABOUT THE
ACCIDENT.







Don't take it
so seriously.



you could just put
it away. It all
depends on you.

Just give it to
him and be
done, but if
that's
not possible.



I'M
GOING IN
CIRCLES



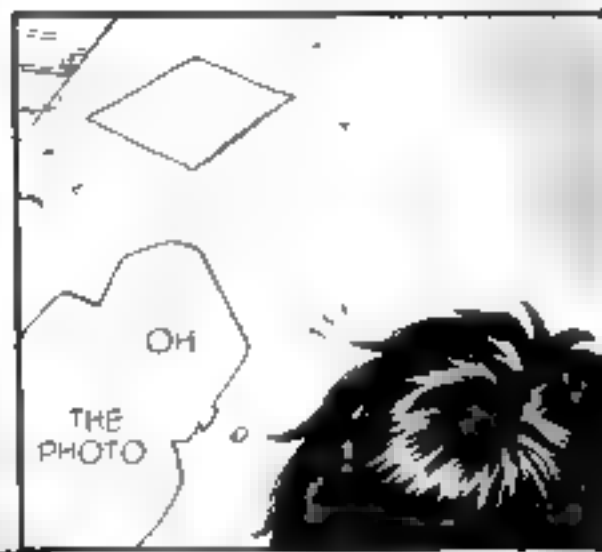
I DON'T
THINK I
SHOULD
HAVE THIS.

BUT

BOUNCE



Letter



Kousei Ozu
again!











THAT'S



What is..

..this..

GIVE IT
TO YOU..



I JUST
FOUND IT,
AND THEN..
I WANTED
TO ..

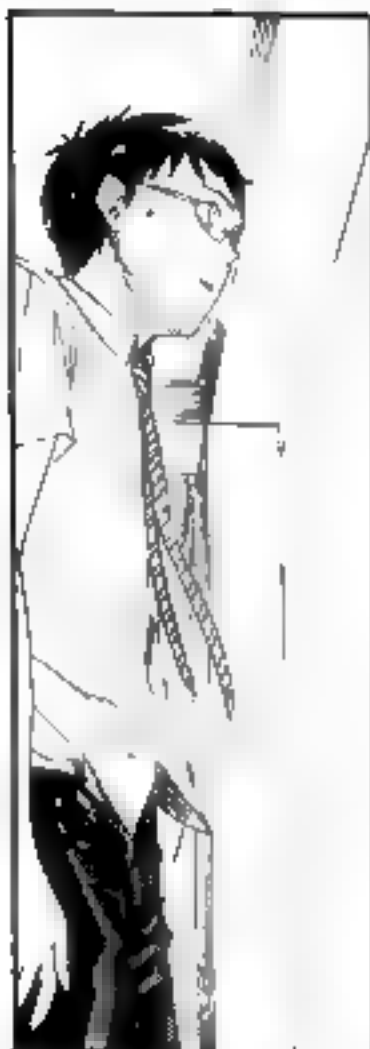
I WAS
SORTING OUT
THE NEGATIVES
FOR MY CLUB



IT WAS ..

Shit!

WHAT
ARE YOU
FREAKING
OUT ABOUT?



...guilt?



I DON'T
HAVE ANY
PICTURES
OF US
TOGETHER



I THREW OUT
EVERYTH NG
I HAD, SO...



THANKS





I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
HAVING THIS
PICTURE TAKEN

I'VE NEVER
SEEN TH'S
ONE.



SUICIDE K NDA
MAKES SENSE,

BUT IT'S NOT
QUITE RIGHT



MELODRAMATIC
TITLE

"MADDER
SUICIDE"



I SAW IT,

YOUR
PICTURE

HUM



IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN
NICE..



IF IT WERE
"DOUBLE
SUICIDE."

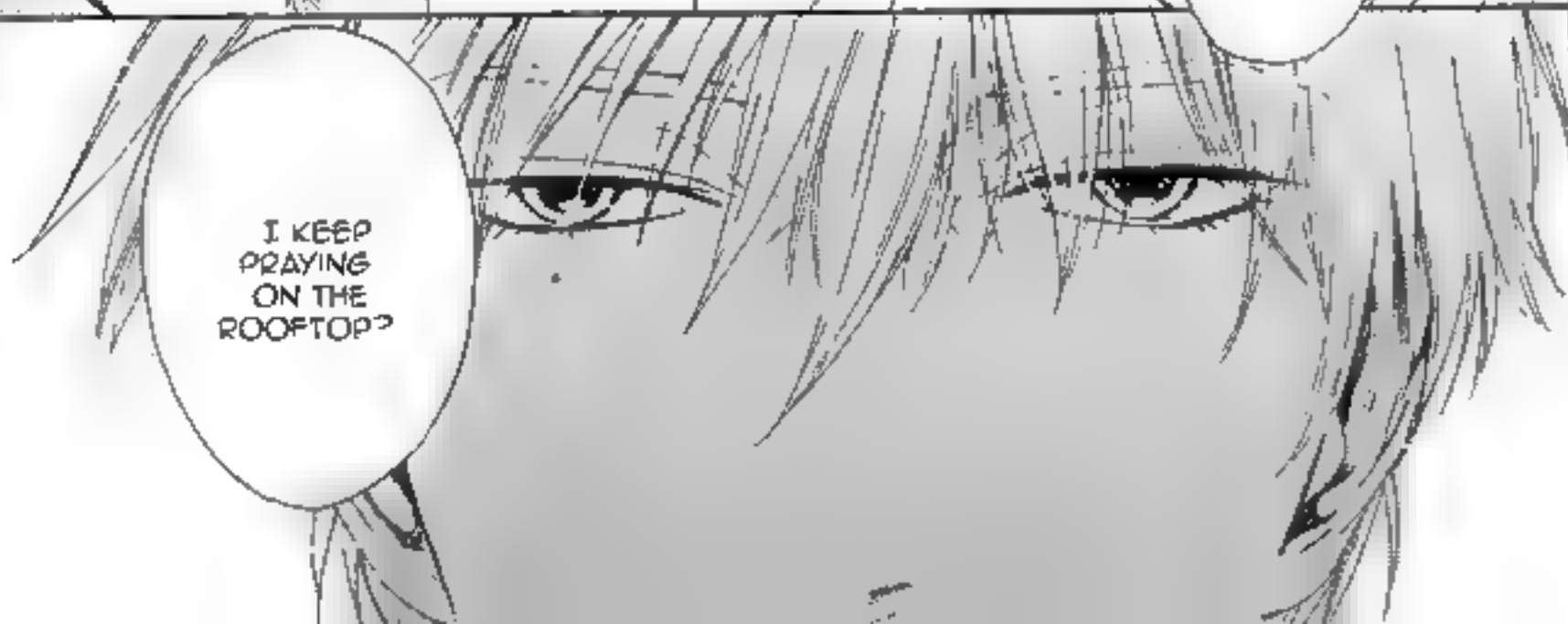




DO YOU
WANT TO
KNOW?

WHAT?

Jingle





LOVE IT
OR HATE IT,



THE TRUTH.

The End of Chapter 3

空をだいておやすみ

CHAPTER 4

第四話



I WANT TO GET HURT

I WANT HIM TO HURT ME

I DON'T WANT TO GET HURT

I WANT TO HURT HIM

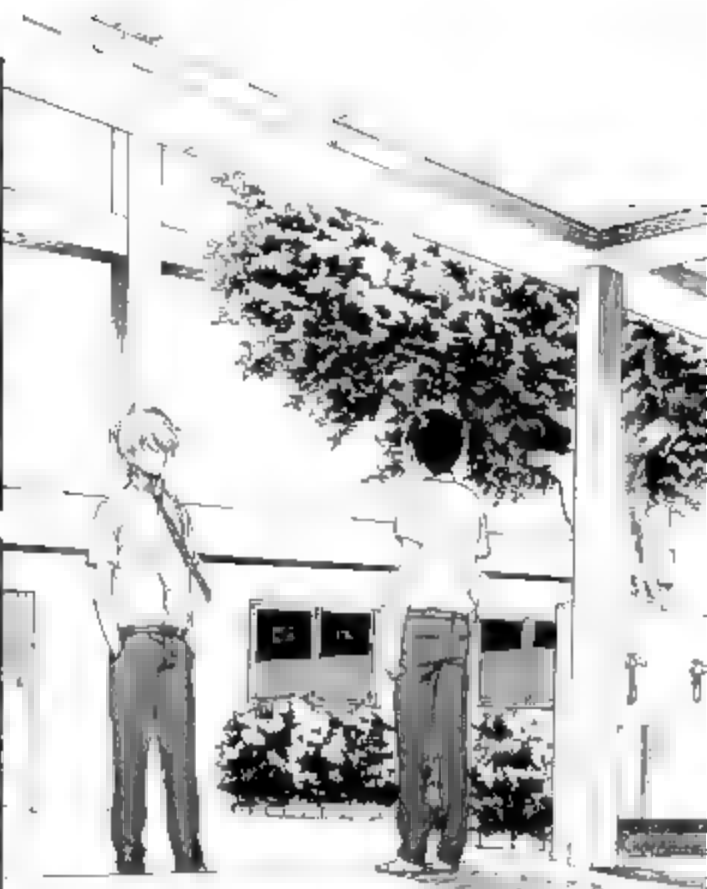
九
KYU
GO
號

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

THE REASON.

"THE REASON."

このお話は、平凡な高校生、三代孝が、ある日、友子の霊が出るという噂の屋上へ写真を持ちに訪れると、クラスメイトの之木源次郎が何かを祈るように佇んでいた。その姿に目を奪われた孝は、母の写真を撮る。翌日、孝は母に似た友子の写真を部屋で発見する。孝と身体の関係を持つ一歩怪しげな素顔の之木源次郎と、写真の真相を解くことになるが、





IT'S NOT JUST
CURIOSITY, THOUGH

THERE'S
SOME-
THING ..



HE'S RIGHT



THAT'S
BEEN ON MY
MIND SINCE
THAT DAY



WELL, IT'S NOT
LIKE I'M TRYING
TO KEEP IT A
SECRET

I DIDN'T
THINK THAT
ANYONE
WOULD WANT
TO KNOW AT
THIS POINT,
BUT..



DON'T
APOLO-
GIZE.

I'M NOT
UPSET
WITH YOU



SORRY..



"DON'T BE
A BABY,
YASHIRO"
"ESPECIALLY IF
YOU'RE NOT
DOING THIS
JUST FOR
YOUR OWN
CURIOSITY"







BUT IT WASN'T
AN ACCIDENT.



AT LEAST,
NOT TO ME



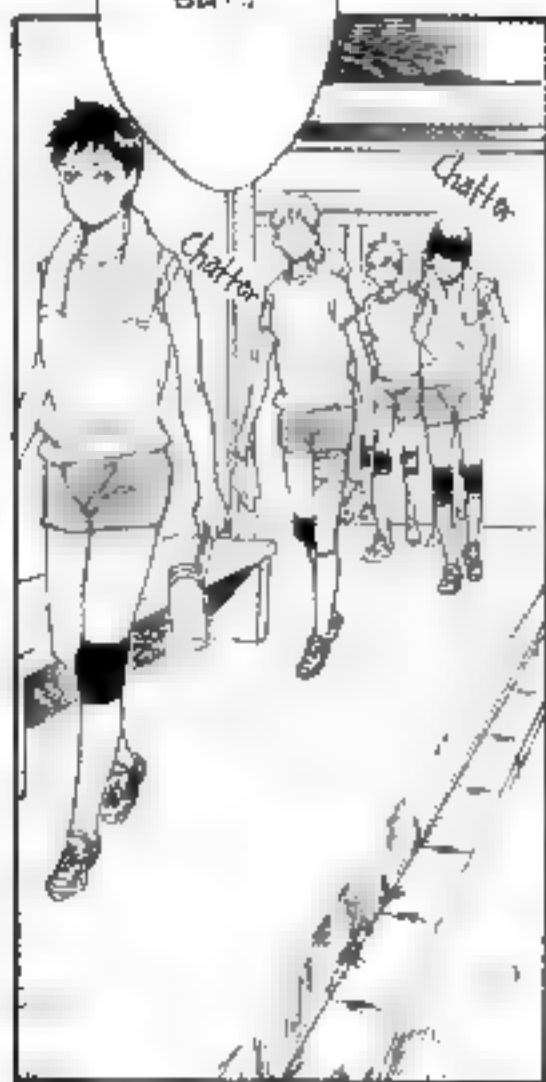
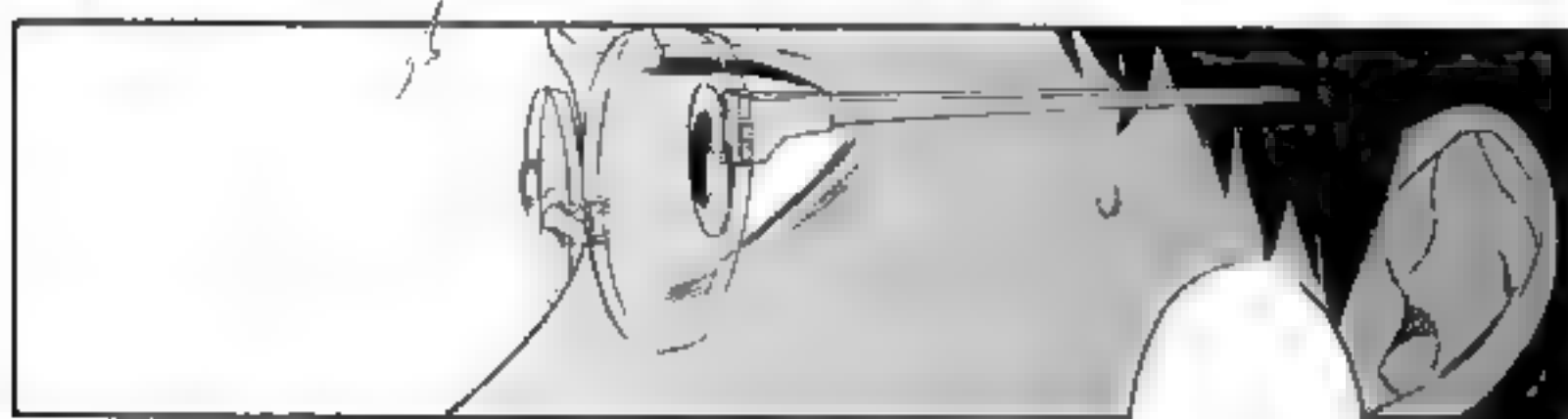
KEI WAS
ALREADY ON
THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
RAILING



WHEN I
GOT TO THE
ROOFTOP,

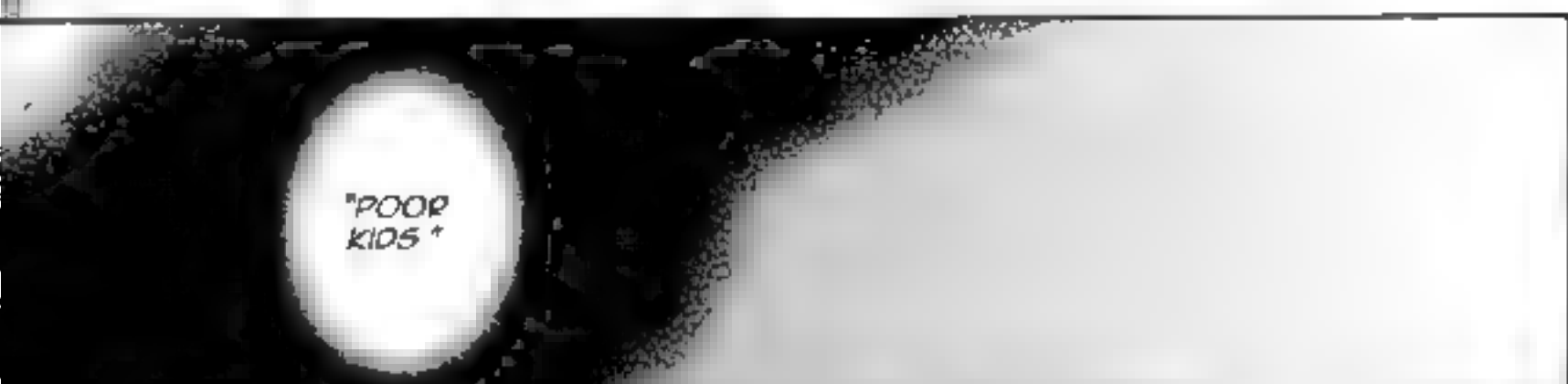


HE WAS
WAITING
FOR ME.









"IT WAS SO SUDDEN"

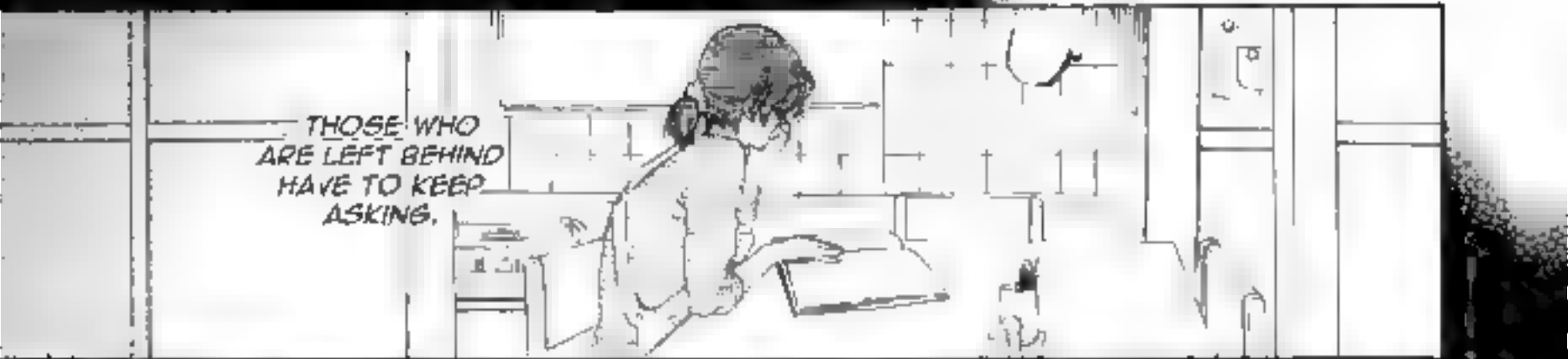




I WANT TO
UNDERSTAND.

BUT...

ALL THE
QUESTIONS...



THOSE WHO
ARE LEFT BEHIND
HAVE TO KEEP
ASKING.



SORRY

NOWHERE



BUT THERE
ARE NO
ANSWERS

THERE IS
NO EXIT



FOR 50
LONG



WHEN
I WAS IN
GRADE 4

MY FATHER
DIED.

I'VE BEEN
HANDLING IT
ALONE FOR
SO LONG.

MY FATHER
WHO WAS
ALWAYS
SMILING.

I COULDN'T
RECONCILE

AND THE
BODY THAT LAY
IN FRONT OF
ME.



WHAT I REMEMBERED
THE MOST



IS THE THIN,
BLACK MARK
AROUND HIS
NECK.

FELT
COMPLETELY
UNREALISTIC.

THE TRUTH
THAT WAS
SHOVED
AT ME SO
SUDDENLY..



BUT IT SUDDENLY
HITS YOU

KEEPING UP
THE DAILY
ROUTINE,
LETTING THE
TIME FLOW. I
KEPT GOING
ON WITHOUT
EVER THINKING
ABOUT IT.

SOON AFTER,
WE MOVED TO OUR
GRANDFATHER'S
HOUSE

MY MOTHER
STARTED WORKING
AND BEFORE
I KNEW IT, I WAS
IN JUNIOR HIGH.

SO
SELFISH

I...

WHAT WAS
I HOPING TO
GET FROM
ICHINOSE?

GOT NOSY,
THEN JUST
"FORGET IT"?

I THOUGHT
I HAD QUIT
THINKING
ABOUT IT

BUT .

I THOUGHT
THAT I HAD
NO EXIT

IT
COULD
BE .

AT THE
WINTER
SUNSET

OR AN OLD
MAN HOLDING
A TEA CUP ON
HIS PATIO

OR MY
MOTHER'S BACK
WHICH ALWAYS
SEEMS TO GET
SMALLER,

OR SMALL
SCRATCHES
ON MY
FATHER'S
CAMERA.

LOOKING
FOR AN
ANSWER.

ALWAYS

UNCON-
SCIOUSLY,

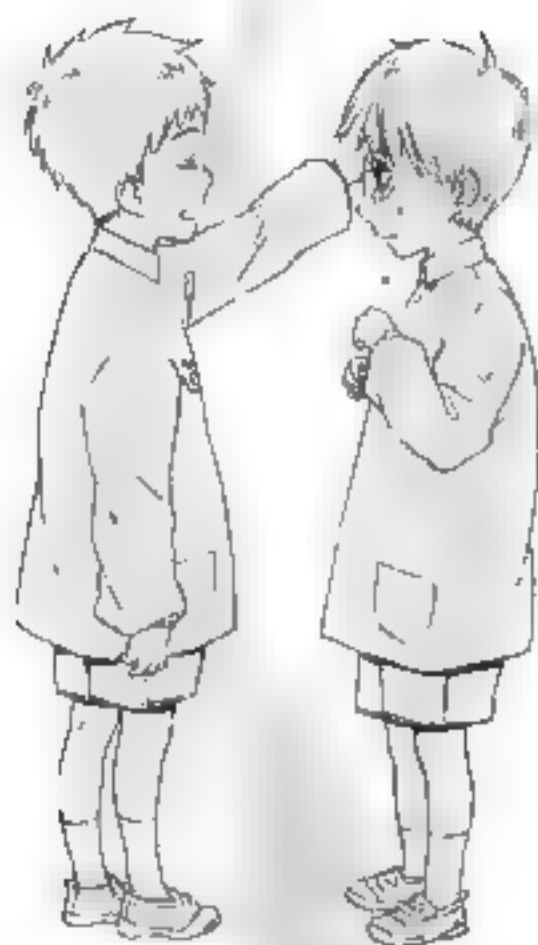
I'M STILL...





"HEY, ROKU,"

"DO YOU
THINK I'M
GOING
CRAZY?"



..STILL
JUST ME."



"BUT I'M...

"MAYBE."

"KEI."



"I WANT IT
SO BAD."



"ALWAYS"

"I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SICK"

"I KNEW
THAT, TOO."

"BUT."

"...MY WISH
COULD NEVER
COME TRUE."



"I KNEW
IT"

"I KNEW
IT, BUT..."



"KEV"

"I..."

"IT'S OKAY."



ROKU?

"IT'S OKAY
NOW."





ONE THING

THERE S
ONE THING
I CAN DO
FOR YOU



The End of Chapter 4

It always took the two of
us to make one whole.



Embrace the Sky and Sleep

Previously, ordinary high school student, Yoshiro Shuui, became entangled by fellow classmate, Ichirose Raku after stumbling upon him praying on the school's supposedly haunted rooftop. The next day, Shuui found a picture of twins who look like Raku. Odu Kausei, who is in the midst of a relationship with Raku, attempted to keep Shuui away from Raku but failed, allowing Shuui to learn the truth behind the photo. Given their comparable situations, Shuui can't help being drawn to Raku even though he's hesitant to get too close.



But...

...that was
back when
we were
young and
innocent.



both of us
in different
ways.

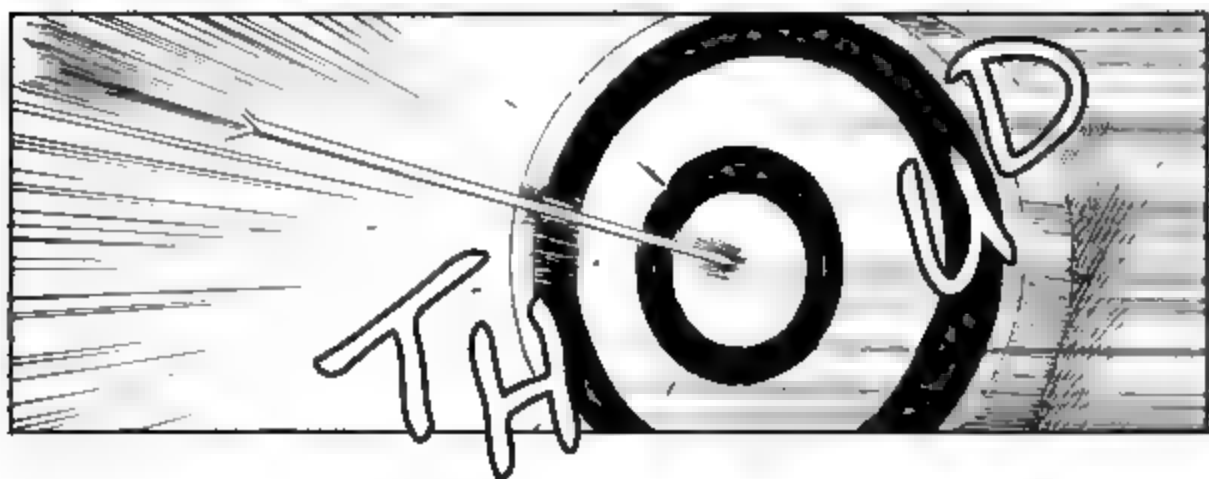


Slowly we
changed.

"First love
never lasts."

Someone
once said,





...became
just two.

Two as
one...



Two
whose
paths
would
never
cross
again.



Embrace the Sky and Sleep

Chapter 5

九 號

Work by KYUGO

Our secret...

I have to stay late for
student council stuff.
Go ahead and eat dinner
without me.

- Kei

BASKETBALL
CLUB - BOYS

chatter

ROKU!

chatter

snap

chatter

chatter

chatter

BRRING

BRRING

BRRING

chatter

WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
LATER?

OH,

chatter

IT'S MY
TURN TO
MAKE DINNER,
SO I THINK
I'LL HEAD
STRAIGHT
HOME.

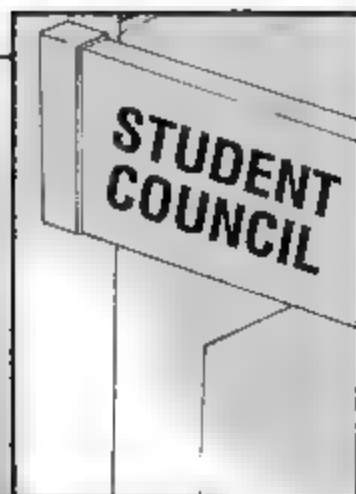
OH,

OKAY

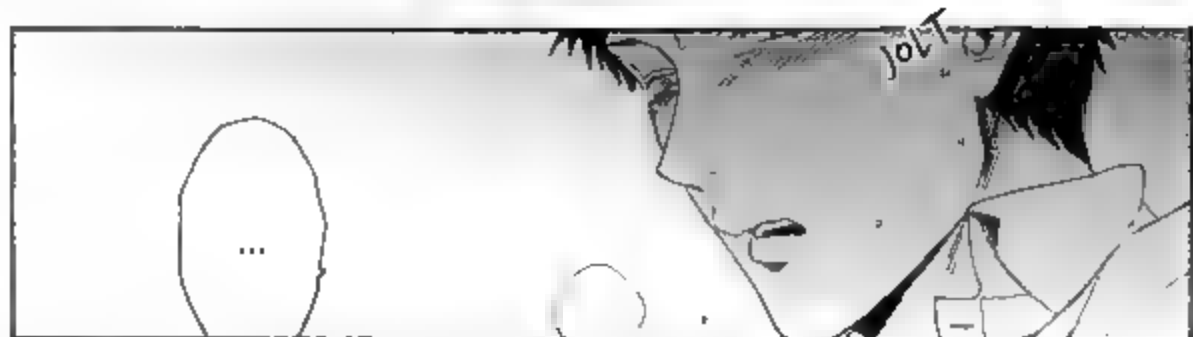
SEE YA,
ROKU!

YEAH









Ha!

There's
no meaning
in this

slap

creak

slap

slap

Ngh

creak

Uhn

Ahl

Ha

creak

CREAK

creak

Uhn

Ugh...

I-

creak

RATTLE

Uhn

Ngh

Ichinose!

It doesn't
matter who
he is.

HA

HA

Ugh

seal me inside,

creak

Ah!

creak

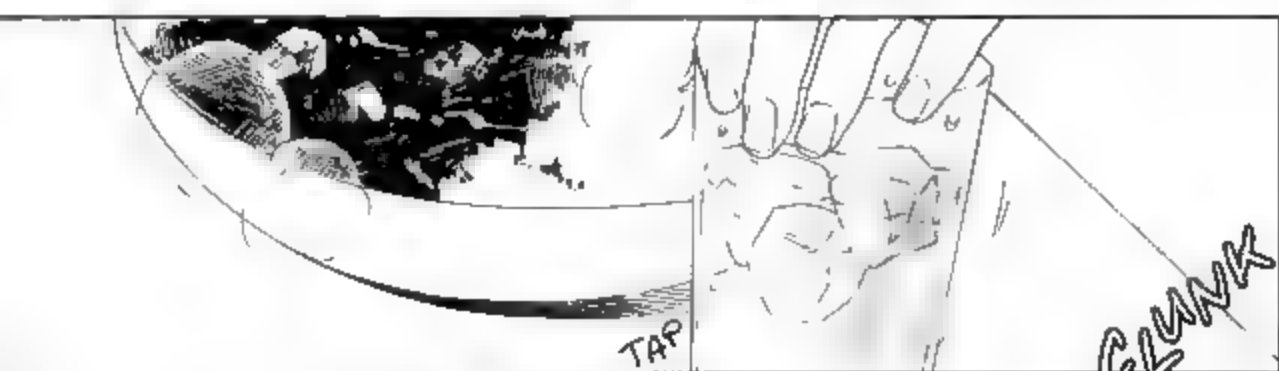
Ah!

CREAK

Cover me over.

before
everything
spills out.







"IT'S HER
DECISION."
ISN'T THAT
WHAT YOU
SAID?

...

I MEAN,

...

IT'S FINE
FOR NOW,
RIGHT?

WELL,
YEAH.

I DON'T
MIND..

HER
LOVING
HIM.

IT'S NOT
THAT

HE'S A
STRANGER,
BUT WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO
WELCOME HIM
INTO OUR HOME
AS "FAMILY"?

SHE'S
FREE TO
LOVE WHOM-
EVER SHE
WANTS,

WE'LL
BE HEADING
OFF TO
UNIVERSITY
SOON AND
WILL EVENT-
UALLY MOVE
OUT.

SO EVEN
IF WE HAVE
TO LIVE WITH
THEM UNTIL
THEN, IT'S LIKE,
WHAT, THREE
YEARS?

WE CAN
HANDLE
THAT.



...

TAP

YOU
KNOW,

BUT I.

I CAN'T
JUST LET
SOMEONE IN
LIKE THAT,

LIKE IT'S
NOTHING...



WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON?
THIS ISN'T
LIKE YOU

...



ARE
YOU..

...TIRED OR
SOMETHING?



EVERY-
THING YOU'RE
WORRYING
ABOUT.

WELL,
WE DON'T
KNOW IF IT'LL
ACTUALLY BE A
PROBLEM UNTIL
WE MEET HIM,
OKAY?



BA





things don't
affect him
personally.

WELL
OKAY, THEN
DIG IN.

YEAH...

For Roku,

If he
found
out...

...

With me,
with Mom.

how would
he react?

...that I lied
about what I
was doing after
school today.

he knows
how to
keep some
distance.





I'll heal it
for you.

If you're
hurt,

I'll lick
your
wound.

Like...

...that would
ever happen.



WHY
NOT?

NAH.

!

THERE'S
NO ROOM.

WE USED
TO SLEEP
TOGETHER

SER-
IOUSLY!

CAN I COME
OVER?



...
...
...

HAA



THAT
WAS THEN,
AND THIS
IS NOW.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
MUCH YOU'VE
GROWN SINCE
THEN?!

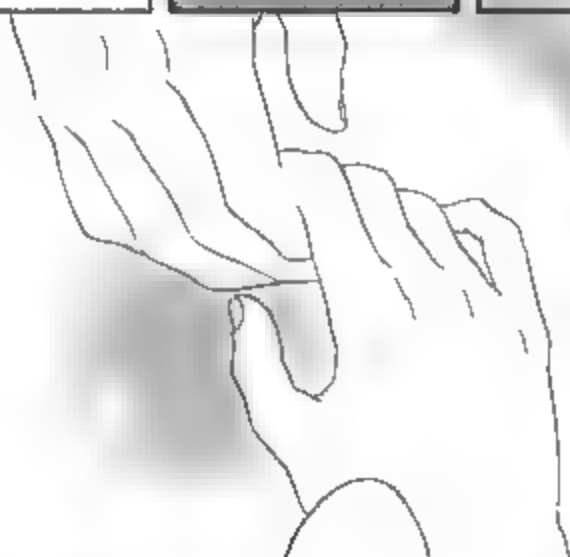


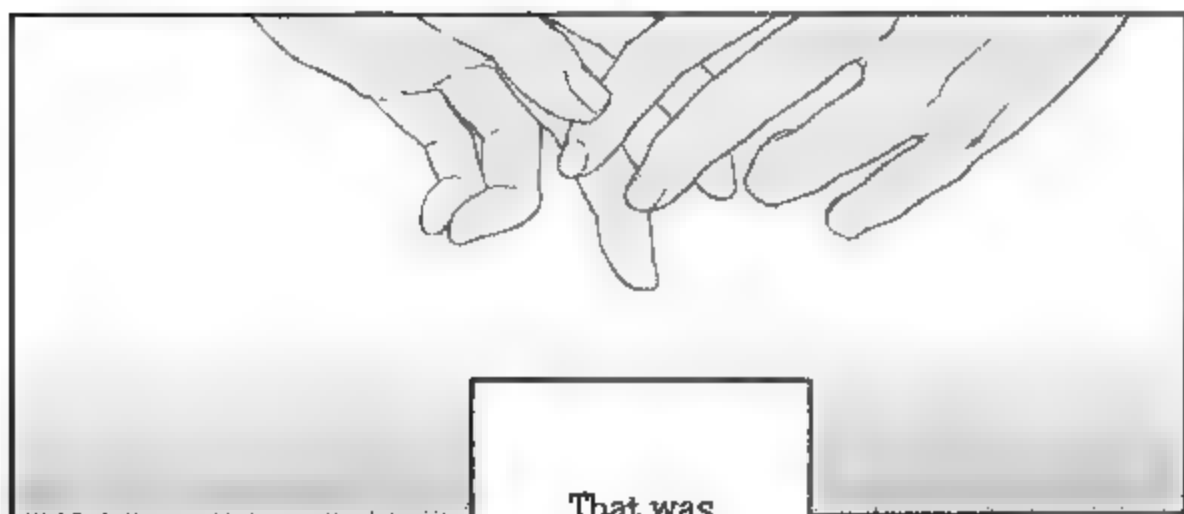
JERK.

HUH?

creak







That was
back when
we could know
each other's
feelings simply
by reaching out
our hands.

31000000 070 0000
1000 0000

Mom remarried
in the autumn
of my third year
in junior high.



The guy was
five years
younger than
her and had a
high-ranking
job in a top
corporation.

He was a
good catch;
right out of
a fairy tale.





It's all...



Previously, ordinary high school student, Yashiro Shuuji, became entranced by fellow classmate, Ichinose Raku, after stumbling upon him praying on the school's supposedly haunted rooftop. The next day, Shuuji found a picture of twins who looked like Raku. When Raku revealed the painful secret behind the photo, it resonated with Shuuji, causing him to recall his own painful past. Although he's dead, Raku can't help remembering his lost brother, Kai...

...such
a lie.



Feelings...

Embrace the Sky and Sleep

Chapter 6

九 號

Work by KYUGO

...die.

YAMABE ICHINOSE

HERE,

THIS
IS FROM
WHEN WE
WENT TO
GUAM THAT
SUMMER

WHOA,
THE SEAS
SO BLUE!

ISN'T IT?
IT RAINED
THE FIRST
DAY, BUT THE
WEATHER WAS
GORGEOUS
AFTER THAT

HM...

YOU
KEEP SAYING
THAT

CONDITIONAL
UPON YOUR
ACCEPTANCE
INTO YOUR
FIRST CHOICE
OF SCHOOL,
THOUGH

HA
HA!
NO
PROBLEM.

...

HEY,

HOW ABOUT
WE ALL GO
THERE ONCE
YOU GUYS
FINISH YOUR
EXAMS?

FOR
REAL?!

OH,
THAT'S A
LOVELY
IDEA!



"SO STUPID."



...

YOU SEEM
FINE WITH IT,
THOUGH

YOU'VE
ALREADY
TOTALLY
ADAPTED TO
HOW THINGS
ARE NOW.

...

YOU
WERE
GROSSED
OUT?

THAT'S WHAT
YOU WERE
THINKING,
RIGHT?

!



THEN SN'T
THAT GREAT
NEWS?!

LOOK LIKE
I'VE TOTALLY
ADAPTED,
HUHP



YOU'RE
GIVING ME
SARCASM?

THAT'S
RIGHT



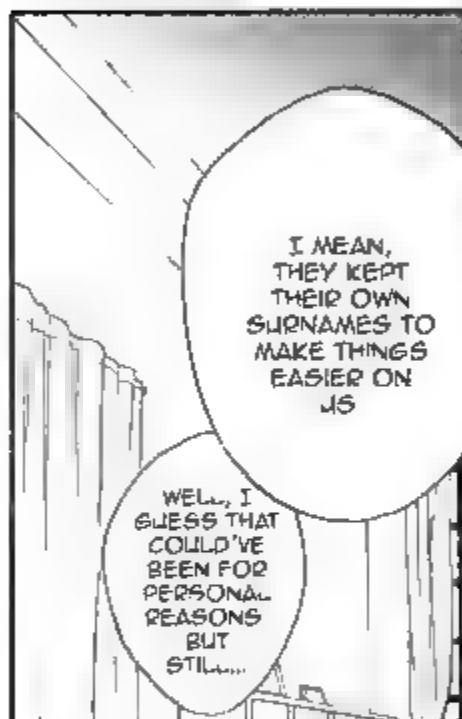
Flop

S
A
R
C
A
S
M



YOU
KNOW,

...



I MEAN,
THEY KEPT
THEIR OWN
SURNAME'S TO
MAKE THINGS
EASIER ON
US

WELL, I
GUESS THAT
COULD'VE
BEEN FOR
PERSONAL
REASONS
BUT
STILL...



HE'S NOT
THAT BAD
A GUY.



YOU
SHOULD
REALLY JUST
ACCEPT HIM
ALREADY



YOU
SHOULD
TRY GOING
WITH THE
FLOW A BIT
MORE

ALTHOUGH
WE HAVEN'T
KNOWN HIM
LONG ENOUGH
TO TRUST HIM, I
THINK MOM'S
CAPABLE OF
HANDLING
THINGS.

I. I THINK
I'M GOING TO
SUPPORT THEM
HOWEVER I
CAN.



WHAT
YOU'RE
FEELING,

BUT, I
REALLY DO
UNDERSTAND.



JOIT

OKAY?

What...



You...

THRUST

Ha

THRUST

THRUST

Ha

THRUST

You...

Ha

...did you
say you
understand?!



Feelings
should be
extinguished.



*I don't need
any of those.*



*They only cause
heartache.*



Nothing ever
phases you.

Your face,
a mirror of
my own...

I wonder how
it will contort.

Haa.

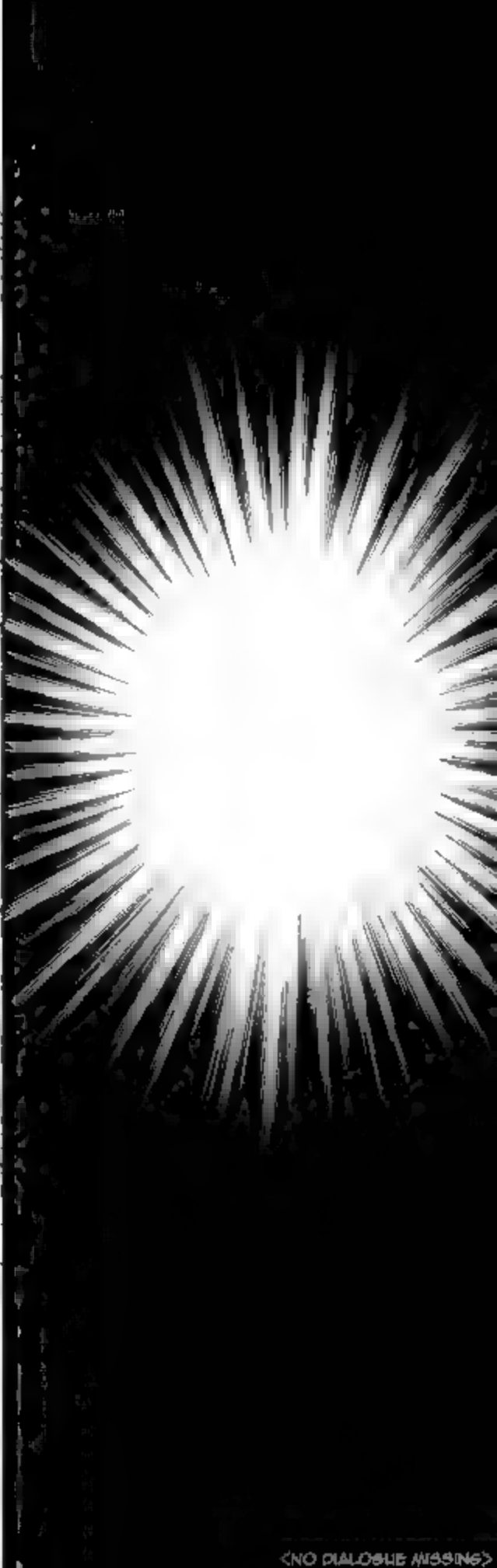
Be
hurt.

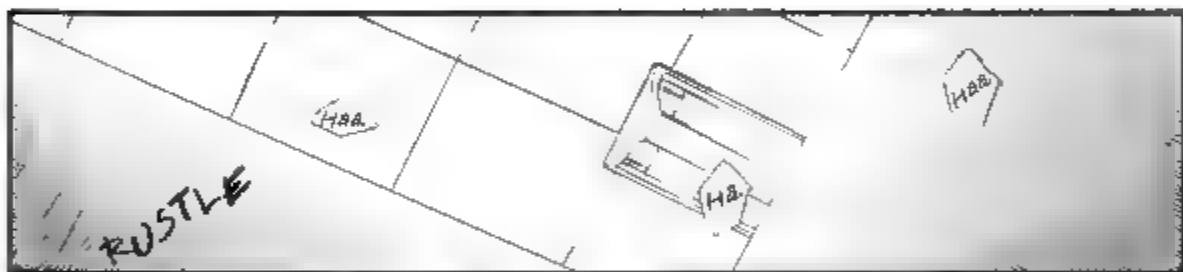
okay?

Hn.

ver

shi









WHEN I
FIRST SAW
YOU AT THE
HOTEL, I
THOUGHT,

Y-YES?

YAMABE-
SAN..

AND I
ENDED UP
BEING RUDE
TO YOU. I'M
SORRY

I... I JUST
COULDN'T
ACCEPT HOW
THINGS WERE
CHANGING,

"AHH,
MAYBE THIS
COULD
WORK "

AT LEAST,
THAT'S HOW
I FELT IN THE
BEGINNING

IT'S ALL
RIGHT!

TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH,

I'M VERY
SORRY. FOR
EVERYTHING.

!

I'VE COME
TO REALIZE

SEEING
YOU AND MOM
TOGETHER ALL
THE TIME, SO
HAPPY

IT FEELS
LIKE MY
HEART IS
BEING
CRUSHED.

BUT..



.. THAT I'M.

.. JEALOUS
OF MOM.

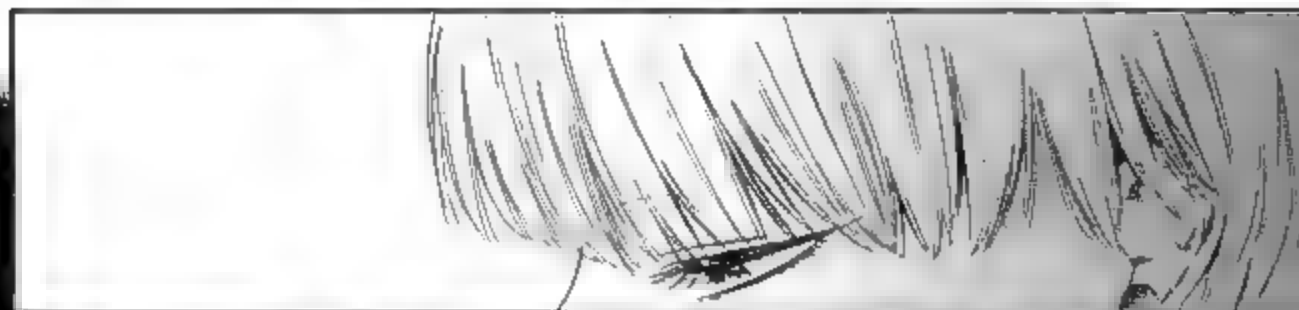


.. THAT WE
FELL FOR
THE SAME
PERSON?



I
WONDER.

IF IT'S
BECAUSE
WE'RE MOTHER
AND CHILD. .



Was it
you?

Roku!

DON'T!

Stop!
Stop it!

Roku!

aren't
you?

You're the
one who made
Roku cry.

Roku!

Help me!
Roku!



WHAM!



It felt
like...

...an electric
shock was
coursing
through me.



Roku didn't hesitate
to put himself in harm's
way for me.



Back then,



I could
hardly bear
the feeling.



our feelings
reached each
other.

Even
without
words,



...that
changed.



But...

Many
things have
changed.

AH...

I have to
repaint it.

White...

IT'S
SNOW-
ING.

OH,
YEAH!

NO
WONDER
IT'S
SO
COLD.



*Pure
white...*



Kawaminami High School

JH-HUH
MY MOM'S
ON A
BUSINESS
TRIP

Yo!
SO,
CAN YOU
STAY OVER
TOMORROW?

ROKU!

AND MY
STEPPAD
S PRETTY
EASY
GOING.

AWE-
SOME!

KEI'S NOT
COMING,
THOUGH.

HUH?

Oh...
WELL,
GUESS IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED.

YEAH, HE
DOESN'T LIKE
HANGING OUT
WITH LARGE
GROUPS OF
PEOPLE

OKAY
SEE YOU
TOMORROW
THEN!

YOU KNOW,
A TON OF
G RLS ARE
COMING
JUST
BECAUSE
OF YOU
TWO.

MEH, IT'LL
PROBABLY
STILL BE FINE
WITH JUST
YOU!

"Kei.

about this
weekend..."

"KAY

pat

"I don't like
those types
of things."

"No
thanks."

"I'm going to a BBQ with
some people from school.
Do you want to come?"

"There'll be
girls there~"



	19 Mom's FR1	20 business SAT	21 trip SUN	WHERE'S ROKU?
	26	27	28	



REALLY?

HE JUST
LEFT.

...



KEI...



Haa

I CAN'T
WAIT UNTIL
TONIGHT

WE DON'T
GET CHANCES
LIKE THIS VERY
OFTEN.

THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER

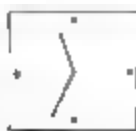
IT'S
NOT EVEN
AFTERNOON
YET

...





There and
back usually
takes about
40 minutes.



20 minutes
to get to the
train station.

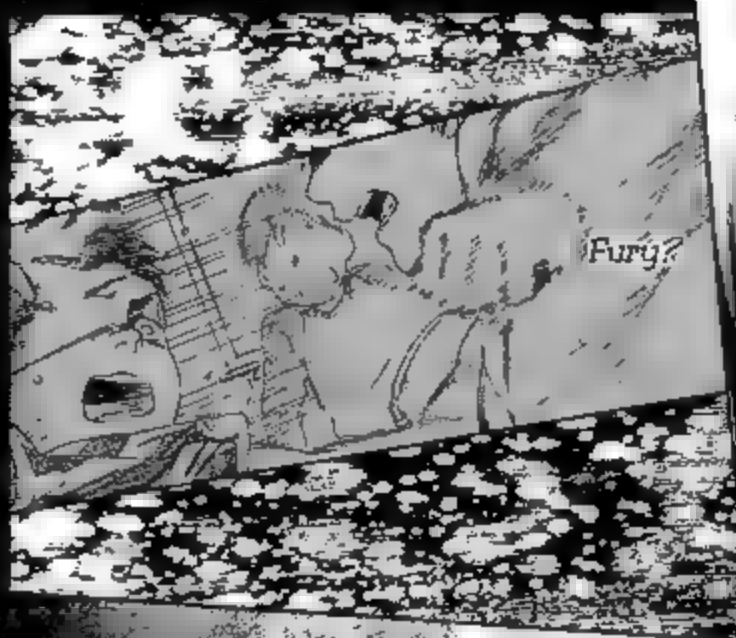


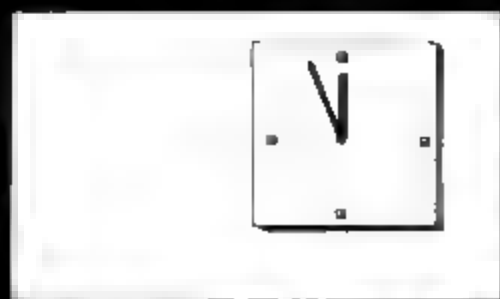
What expression
will he have...

...when he
sees this?

That should
be when...

he realizes.

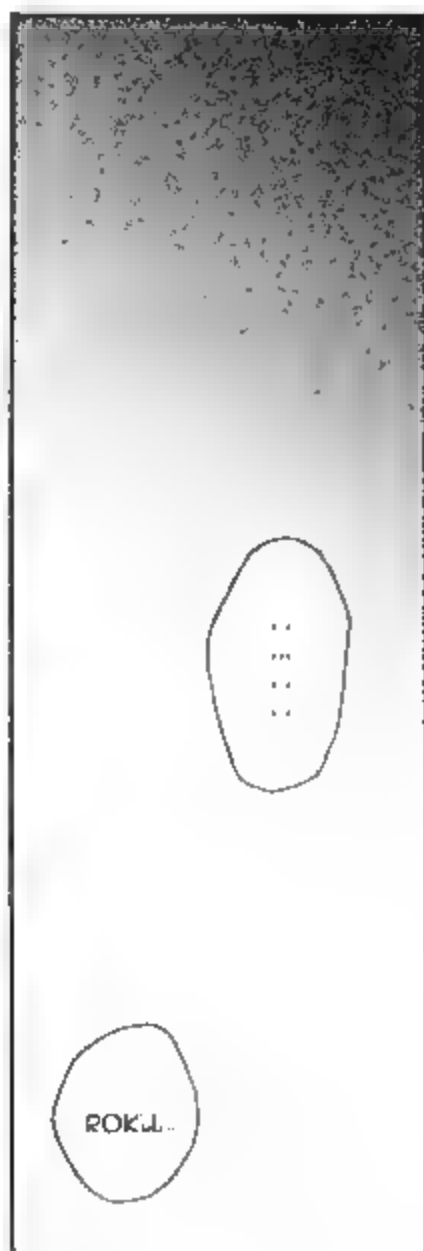
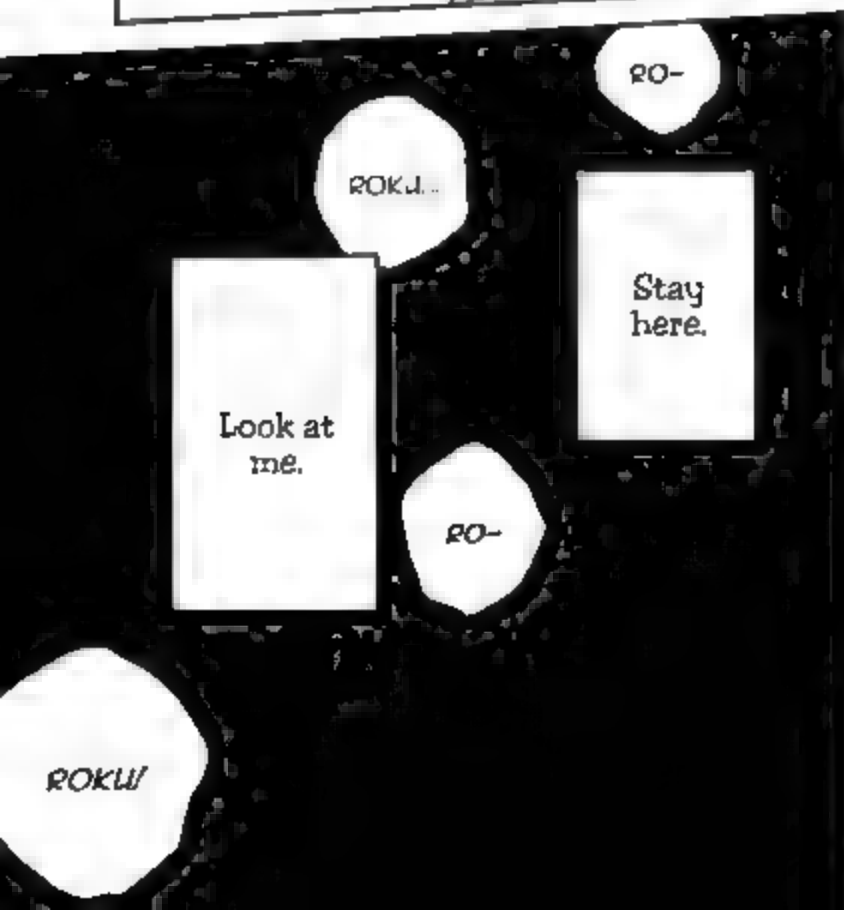












Love me.

Love me...

...only.

Chapter 6 END



dividing us,
hopelessly.

There's
a line...

Even if I want
to cross over it
I can't

YOU SURE
DO KNOW.

WHEN
ROKU'S
COMING
BACK...



I never had any hope





What can
I do to
make myself
satisfied?



AH...

IT... IT'S MY
FAULT FOR
WANTING IT
FIRST THING
IN THE
MORNING...

I'M
SORRY.

What
should
I do?

There is no exit.

This is the story of Yasuhiro Shuuji, an ordinary high school student who is entranced by the image of his classmate, Chinese Roku, who looked as if he was praying at the rooftop, said to be haunted by the spirit of a twin. The next day, Shuuji finds a picture of a set of twins who look like Roku. Roku tells him the secret behind the photo and it's such a sad story that Shuuji can't help but remember his own situation. At the same time, Roku keeps thinking about his younger twin brother, Kei, who is no longer in this world.

Embrace the Sky & Sleep

chapter 7

The days we've just missed..

九 號

Works by KYUGO



HE NEVER
PLAYS VIDEO
GAMES

AND WHAT
DOES HE
MEAN,
"VIDEO
GAMES"?



"Stay
here..."

Don't
go

HE WAS ACTING
LIKE A CHILD.



WHAT'S UP
WITH KE?

rattle



I CAN ALWAYS
BE LOOKING
AFTER KE



IT'S NOT
LIKE



Haa.

HAA...

AH

twitch

twitch

Haa.

shove

Haa.

AH..





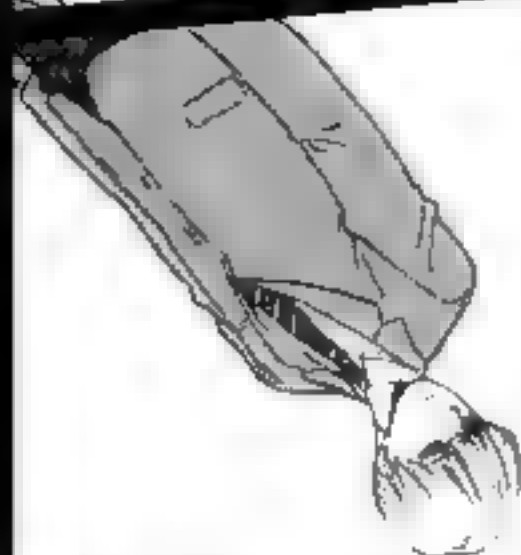
No matter how
I fill my body
up with pleasure,



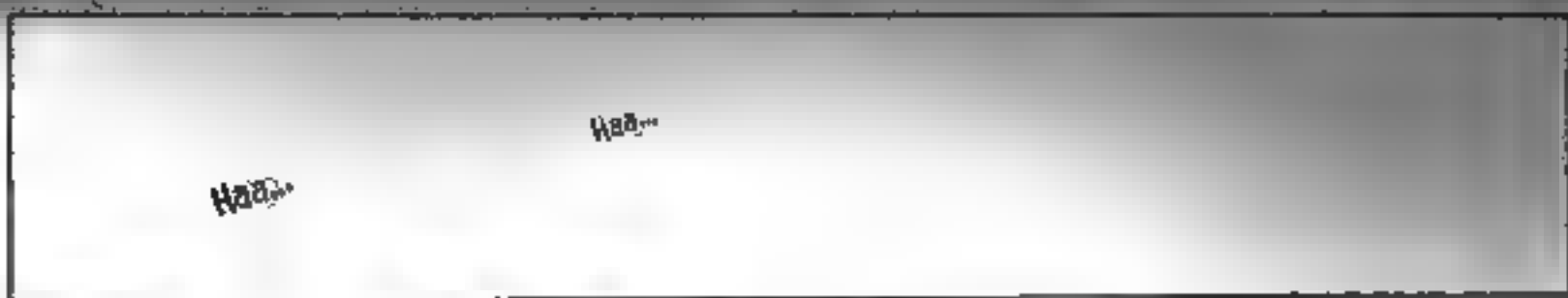
I thought I would just hurt him.



Let him
get hurt...



...so that he
would know
the world
I live in.



Haa...

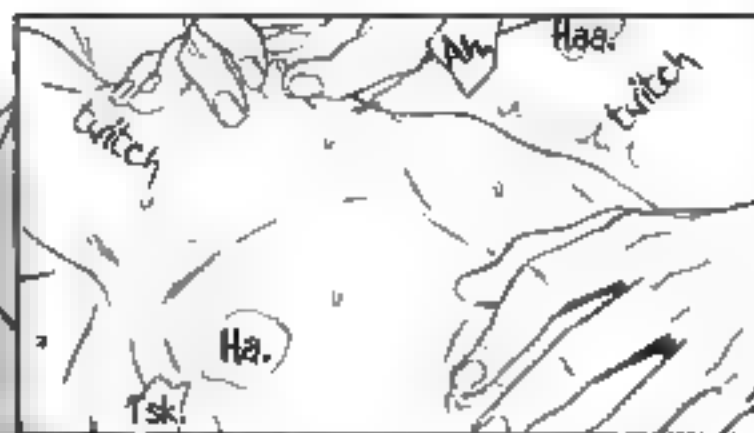
Haa...



I'm scared
after all.



But I
can't...





SAUEAK

Nothing
will change.

Hee

Ha

Kiss

Kiss

Ha

If it can't
be changed,

Hee

then let this
black hole
that can never
be filled

..cough up at
the lies and
contradictions..



...be just
a hole.







WHAT?



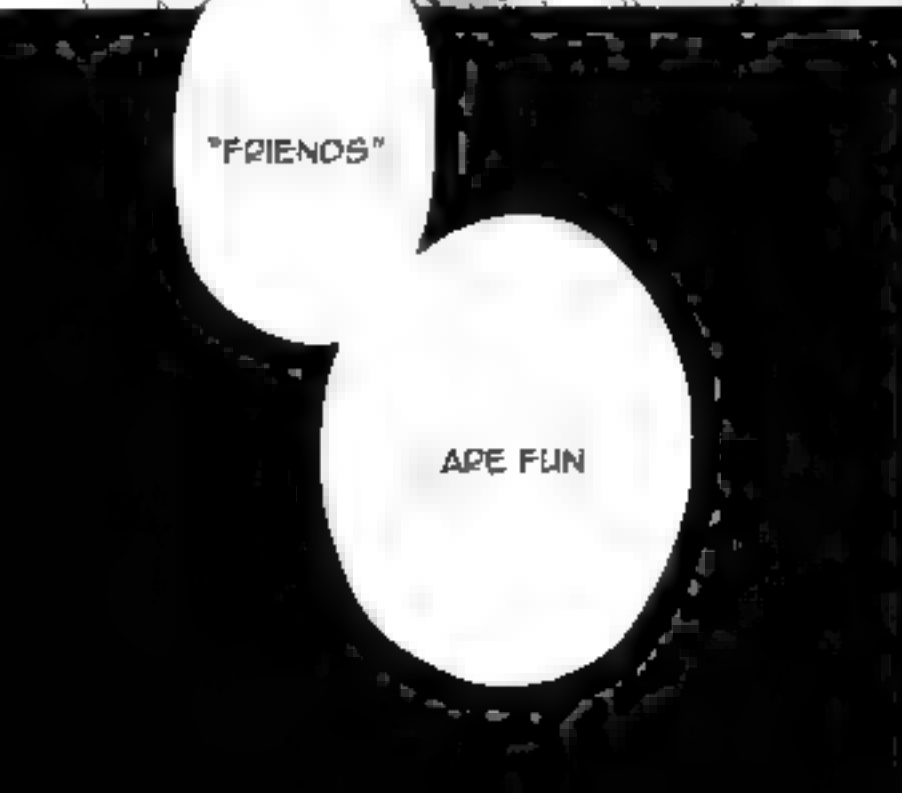
I SAW
YOU AT THE
CAFETERIA
TODAY.

YOU AND TWO
GUYS WERE
CHATTING IN
THE CORNER

...AND
THEY WERE
HOLDING YOUR
SHOULDER.

SOME-
HOW,

I JUST FIND
IT KIND OF
UNUSUAL.













BESIDES,

YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET THOSE
BULLIES COME OVER
IN THE FIRST PLACE!

chuckle



YOU .

NO .

Haha!

WHAT
ARE YOU
LAUGHING
AT?

?!



HUH?!

STILL THINK
LIKE YOU'RE
IN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

YOU THOUGHT
THEY WERE
BULLYING ME?

ARE YOU
TRYING TO
PICK A
FIGHT?

irritated

shock



EVEN THOUGH
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
A THING,

YOU STILL
WORRY
ABOUT ME?

?!

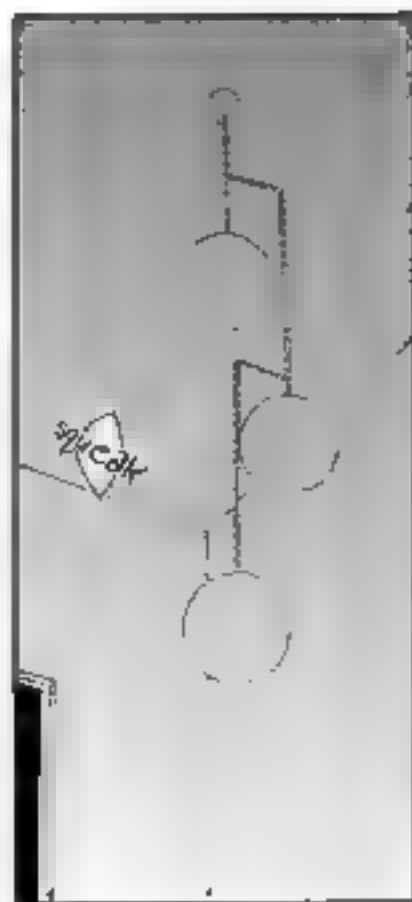


YOU
REALLY
ARE



SO
NAÏVE.











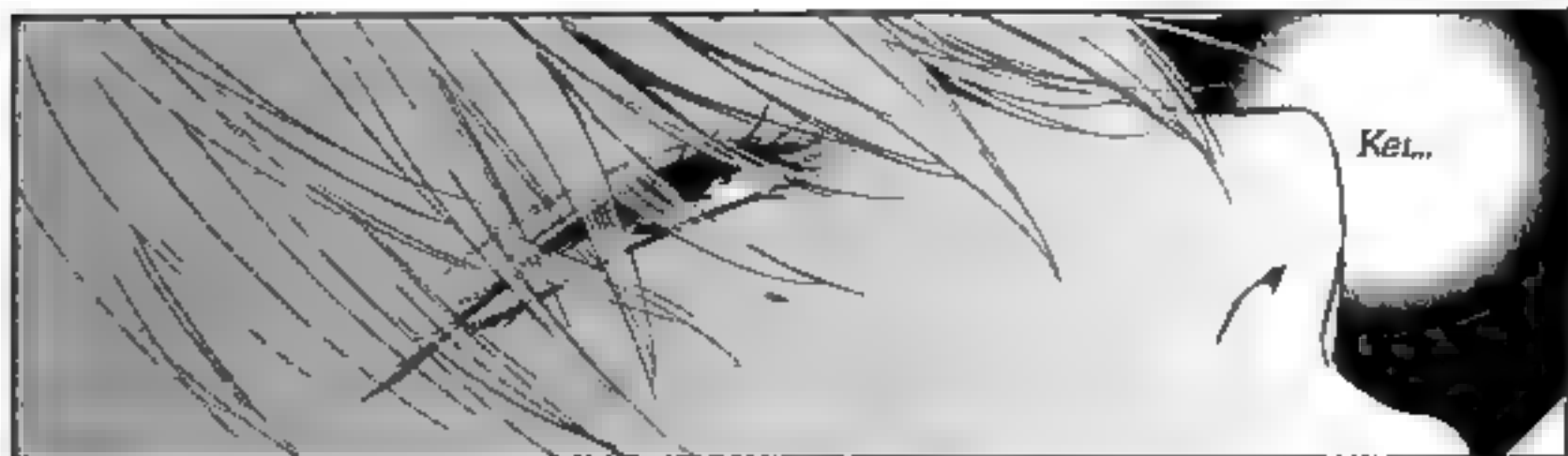






...didn't
understand
a thing.

...really...



Kel...

Chapter 7 END

It might be my
appearance that
was the stupid
reason all this
started.

Although it's
always been a
part of who I
am.



ARE YOU
SURE THIS'LL
WORK?

I'M
RECORDING
EVIDENCE THAT
YOU'RE NOT
A HOMO.

Ugh...

HEY,
ICHINOSE,
DO IT RIGHT!



ROK!

THE TAPE WILL
KEEP HIS MOUTH
SHUT ABOUT
THIS, TOO.

I've known
I was twisted
since I was
a kid.

BECAUSE
HE'S CUTER
THAN ANY
GIRL

FOR
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS?

MY BROTHER
SAID HE CAN
SELL IT TO
PERVERTS
FOR A TON
OF MONEY

IT'S
FINE,
IT'S
FINE



but it's
not like I
didn't try to
correct it.



ROKU S

Aah



AH



AH!

AH..

In this story on the rooftop rumored to be haunted by the spirits of twins, Roku Ichinose lingers in order to play. Ever since his younger twin brother Kei committed suicide, Roku constantly wonders Kei's true motives. While feeling more than affection for his older brother Roku, Kei had lived every day unable to get beyond the bond of "family." The feeling of emptiness being too much to bear, Kei sleeps with someone else, but that day Roku ends up walking in on it.



SEE YOU,
ICHINOSE

DON'T
GO TELLING
YOUR
BROTHER
THIS TIME,
OKAY?

Hahaha!

The one
who wished
for it...



There was a
hole I wanted
to be filled.



...was me.



...



Who is the one
who decided that..

..this is "wrong"?

Embrace the Sky & Sleep

空をだいて おやすみ

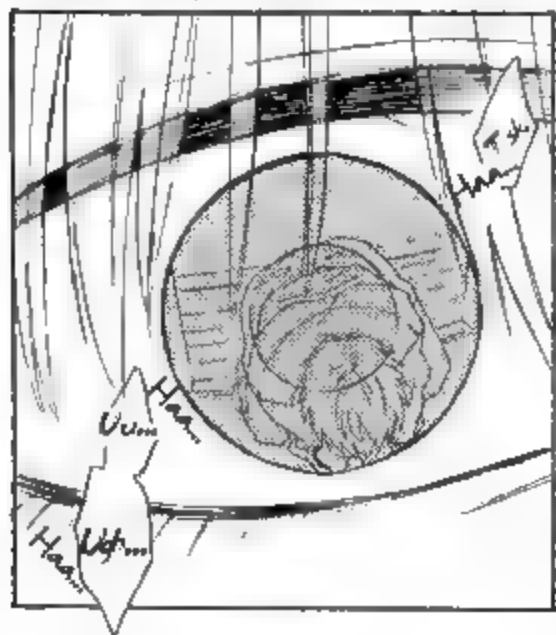
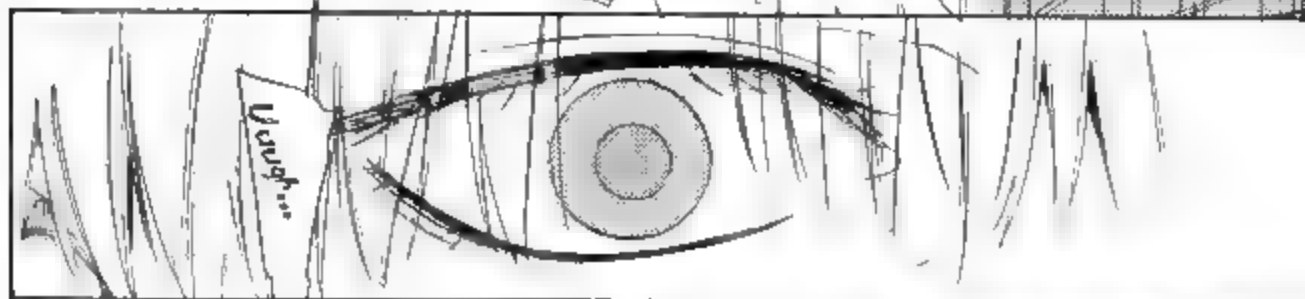
Chapter 8

九 號

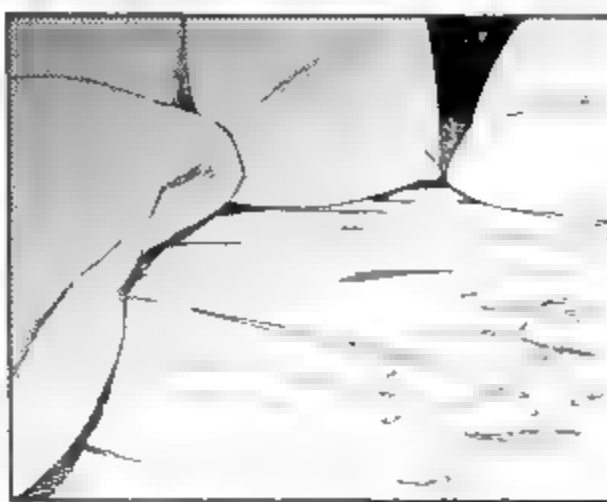
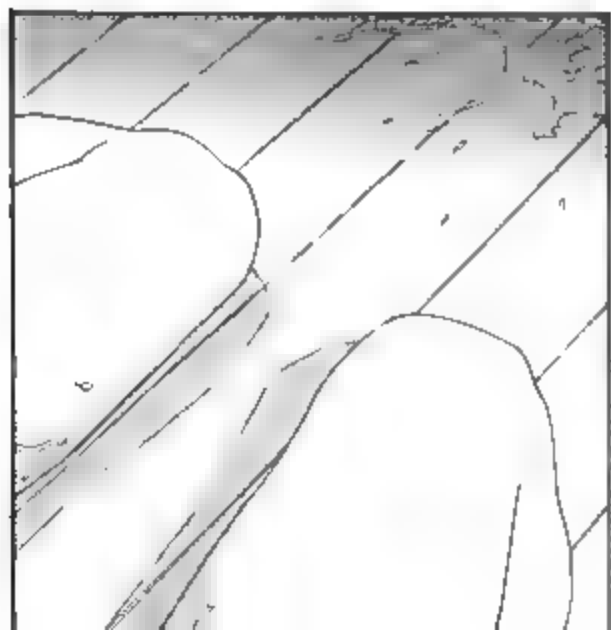
KYUGO













No.



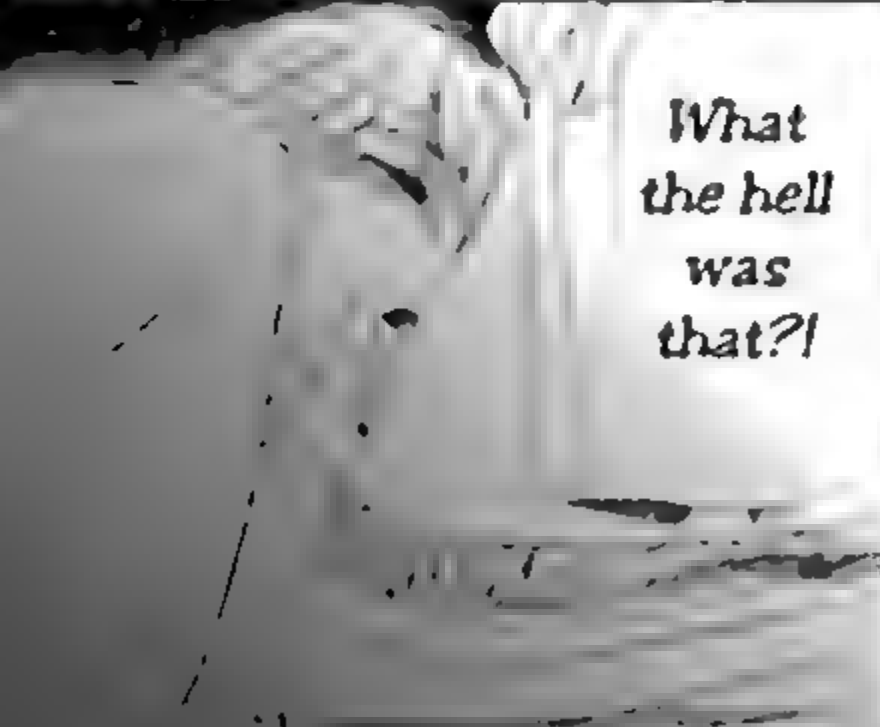
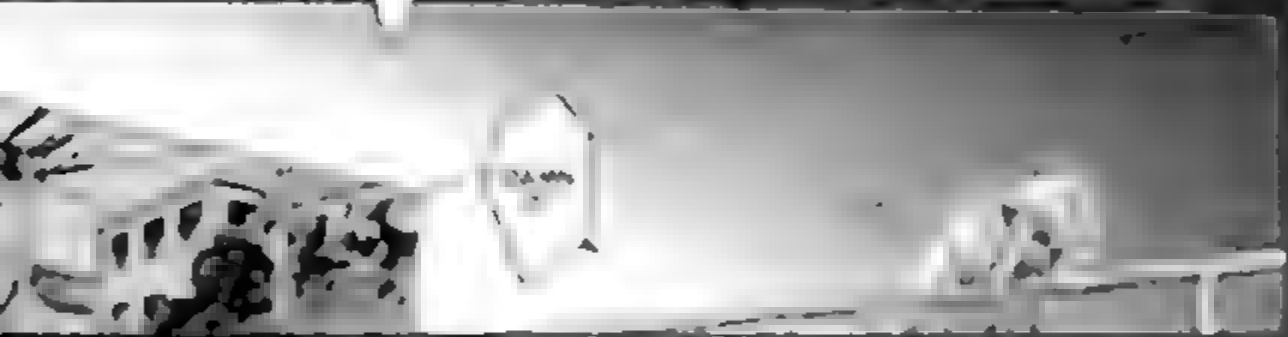
This can't be.

IT'S A
DREAM.





It's
a dream,
right?



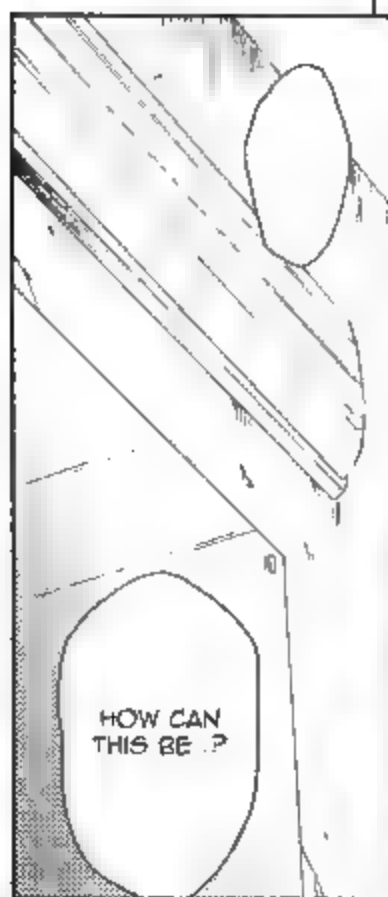
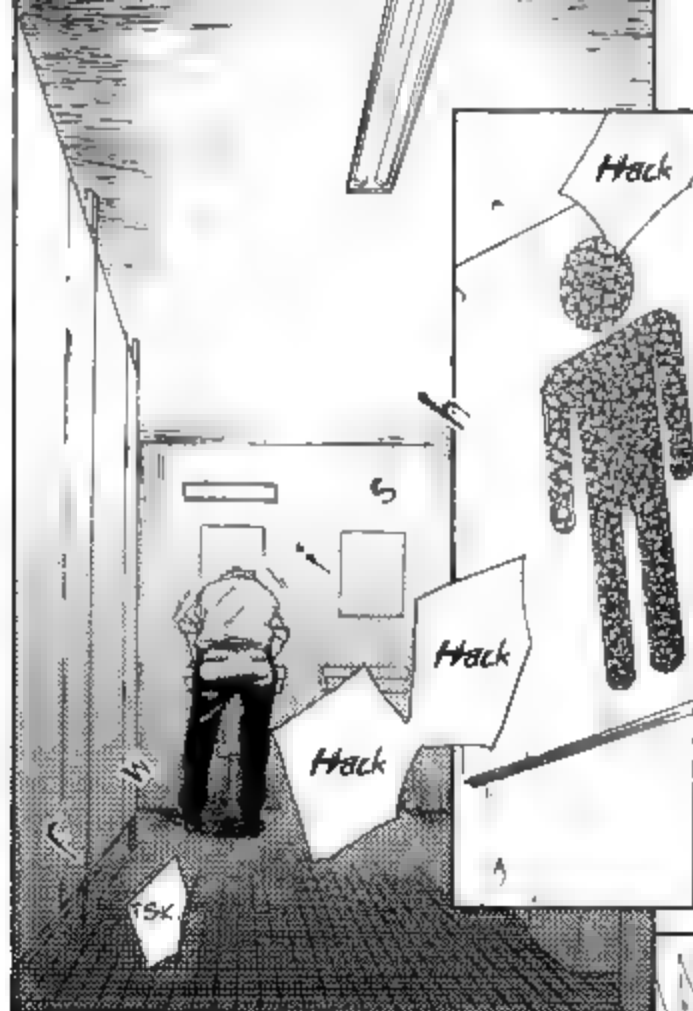
What
the hell
was
that?!



WHAT WAS
THAT?!









SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

...IS IMPOSSIBLE.



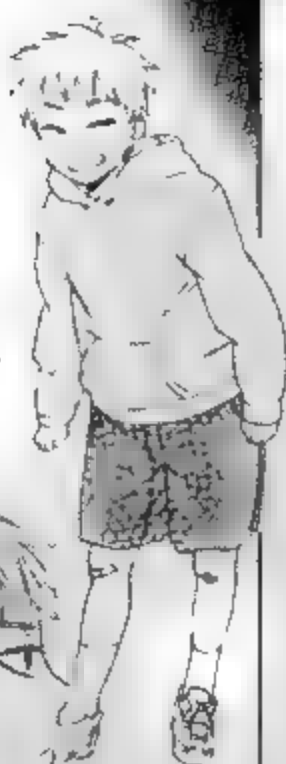
The only thing
we have in
common is
our looks.

we're
completely
different.

spent the
same time
together.

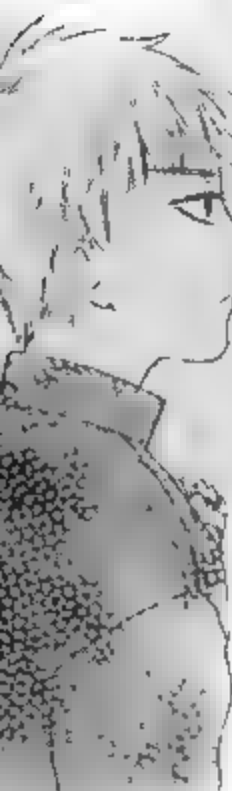
listened to
the same
music,

Even though
we watched
the same
things,



like
sweetness.

There's
something
that slowly
flows from
him,



It's as if it
embraces
you.

but pokes
you at the
same time.

It makes
you want
to hold it.



No matter
when,

Roku always
looks so
bright to me.



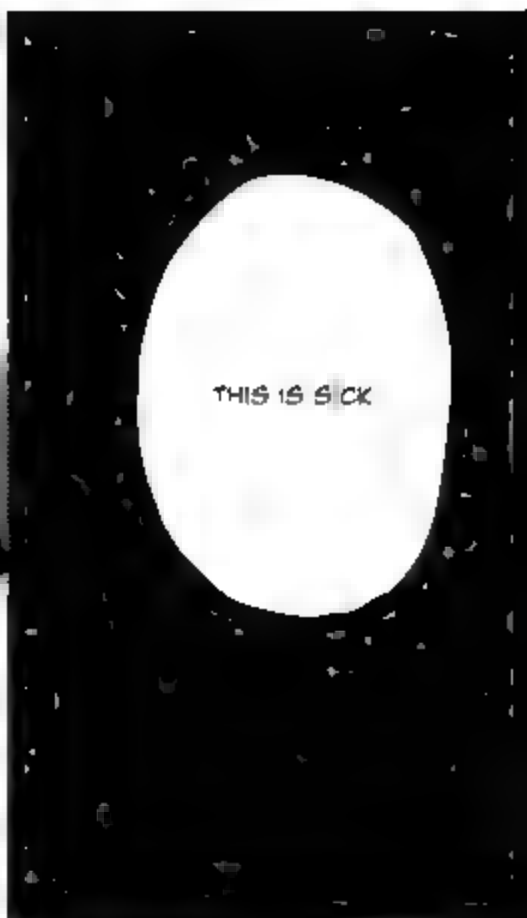
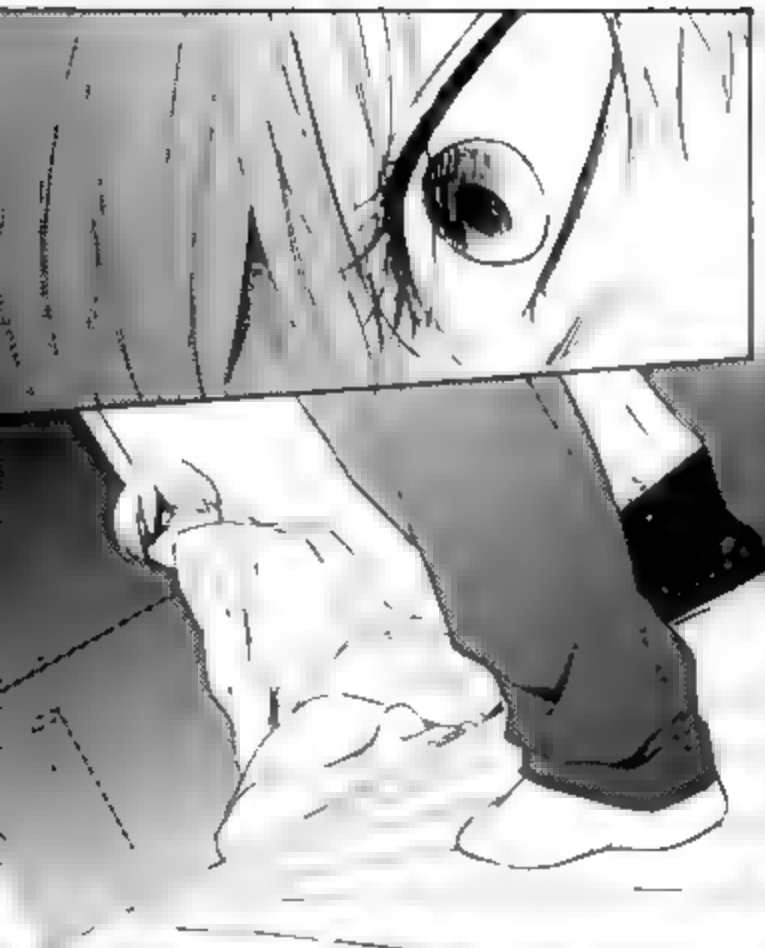
yet also
want to
destroy it.

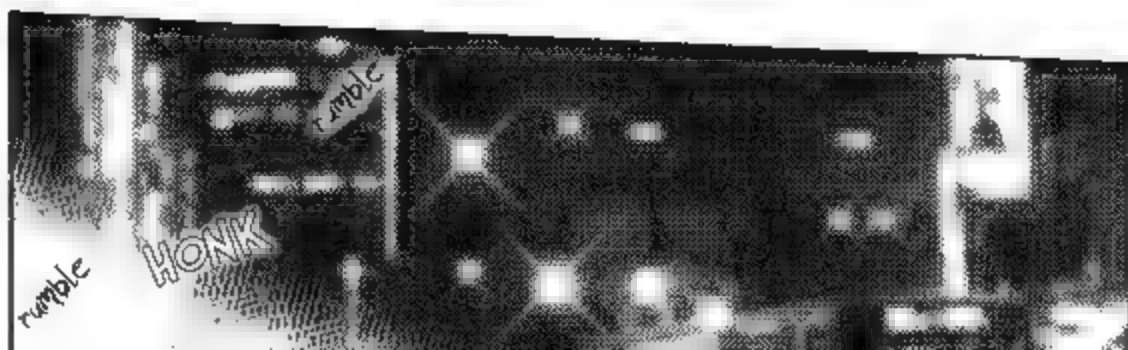


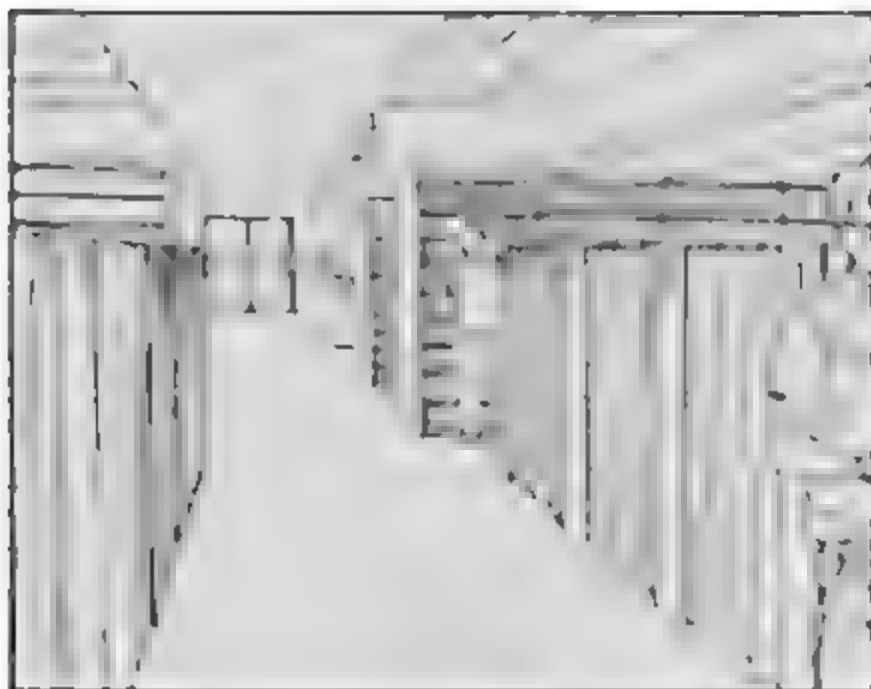
IT'S JUST
A DREAM.

..Don't
worry.









If I were
"normal,"

H.

...we could
have been
happier
together.



maybe...



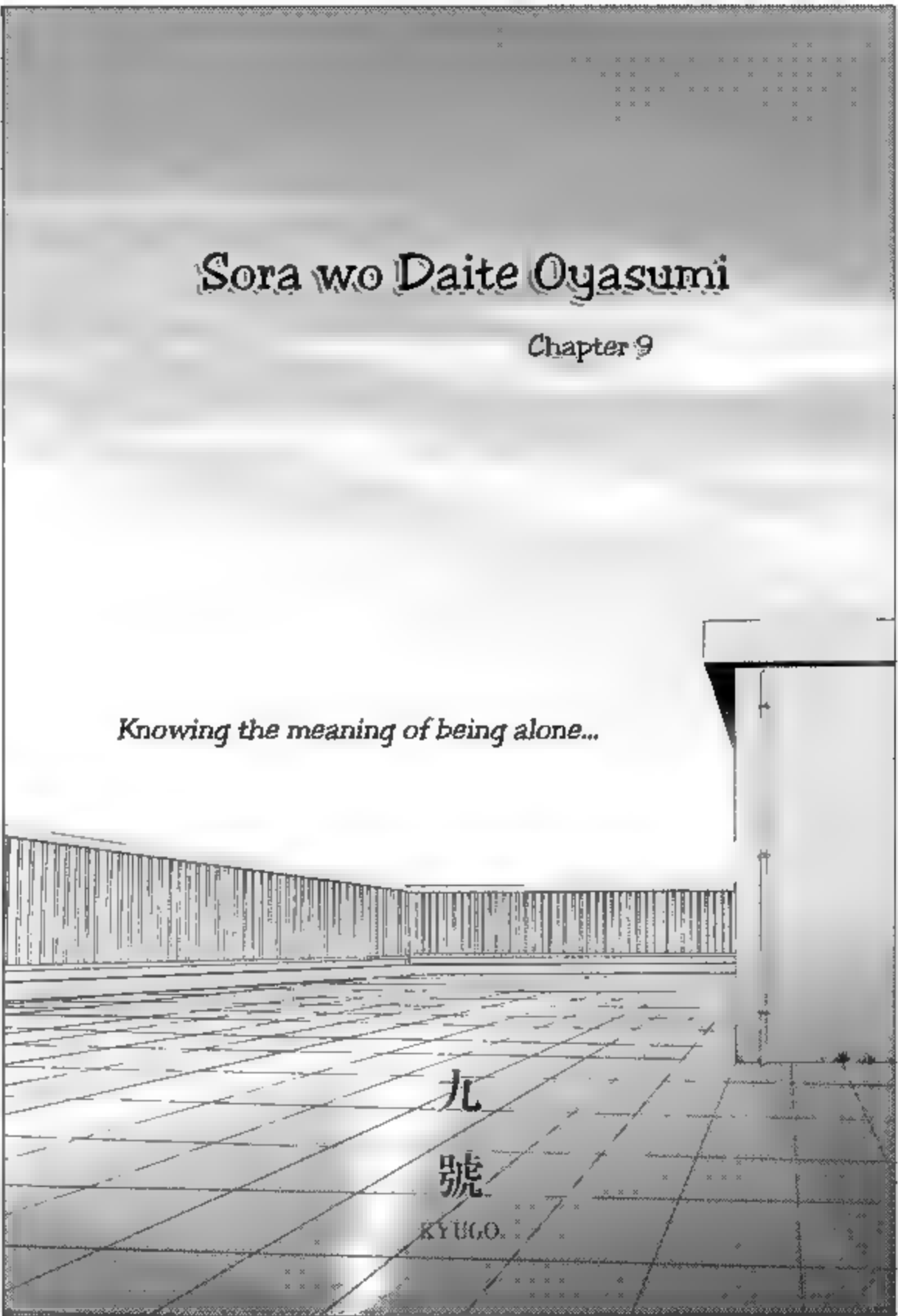
But now,

even that
wish is
ruined.



空をだいてあやすみ

●TO BE CONTINUED●

The background of the page is a black and white illustration. It depicts a large, empty room with a floor marked by a grid of lines, possibly representing a prison or a sterile environment. On the right side, there is a tall, narrow structure, possibly a door or a wall. The overall atmosphere is somber and isolated.

Sora wo Daite Oyasumi

Chapter 9

Knowing the meaning of being alone...

九

號

KYUGO



FLASH

HN Build

FLASH

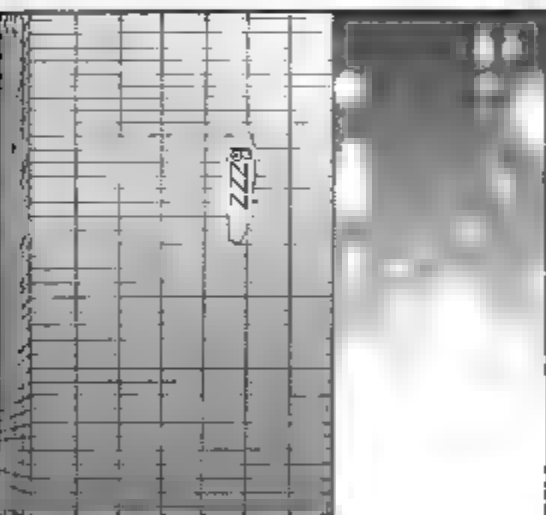
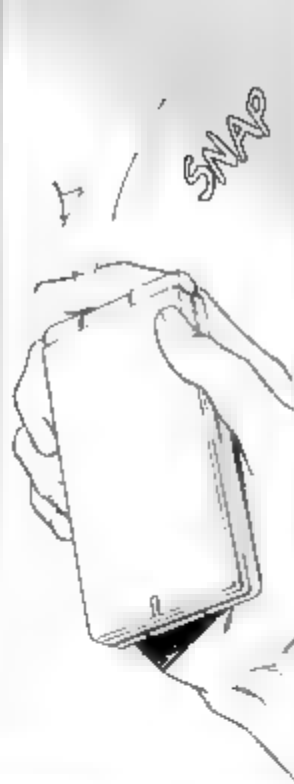
MANGA 24h
INTERNET

Missed Calls

Mom	12
Mom	23 : 40
Mom ...	23 : 13
Mom	22 : 55
Mom	22 : 40

FLASH







I don't want
to think about
it.

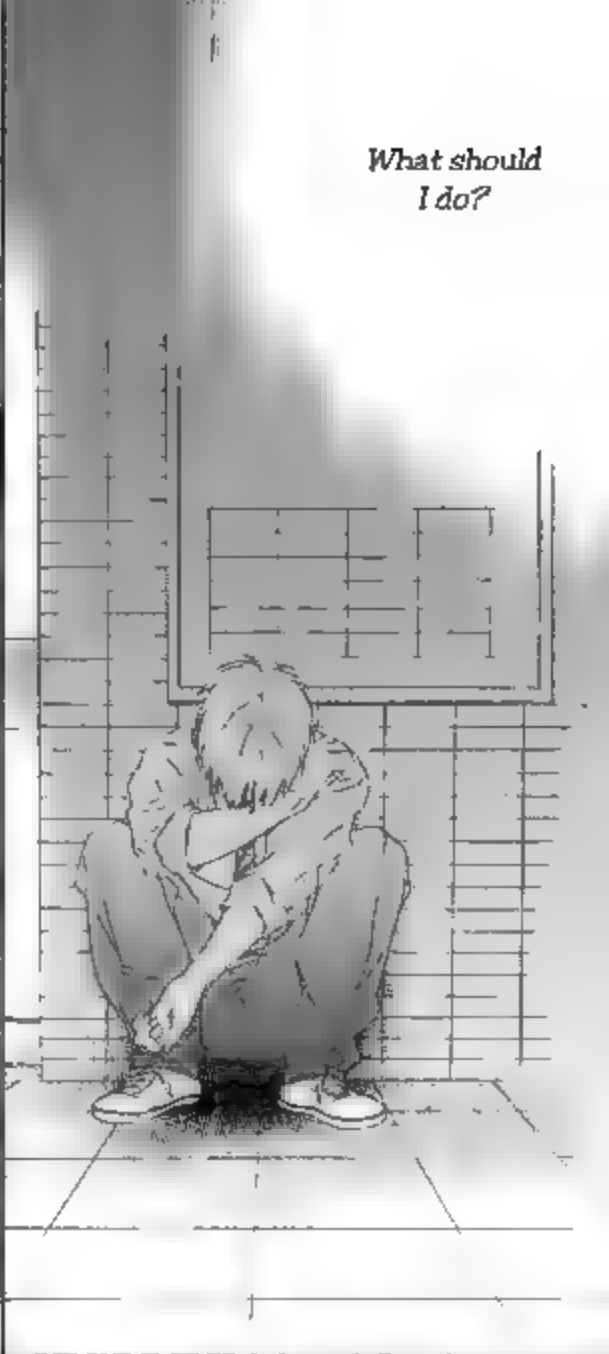


but I keep
having
flashbacks.



I can't go
home...

I don't know
how to face
Kei right now



What should
I do?



THERE'S
NO WAY HE
WANTED IT

THAT'S
NOT KE



That...



THAT'S
RIGHT



He has always
the target of
bullying, ever since
he was young.

I've always been
the one to rescue
him.



Kei's
been
weird
lately.

He's been
hanging
out with
some weird
guys.

He
sometimes
says weird
things...

...and we
barely talk
anymore.



FOR SURE
HE WAS
FORCED TO
DO IT



AND
COULDN'T
REFUSE

AND



"YOU
THOUGHT
I WAS BEING
BULLIED?"



I AM SURE
HE WAS LYING
WHEN HE SAID
THEY WERE
FRIENDS



And?



You saw,
didn't you?

He accepted
both guys...

...without
struggling.



Who would
rape someone
if they were
just planning
to bully him?

It might
make sense if
it was a girl,
but he's a
guy.



How am
I wrong?

Did he
look like
he didn't
like it?

Kei was
smiling.



He was
doing it with
three guys
before you
came home,
you know

YOU'RE
WRONG

Probably
one after
the other.



You thought
it was crazy.



Don't try
to ignore
the facts.



You were
disgusted.



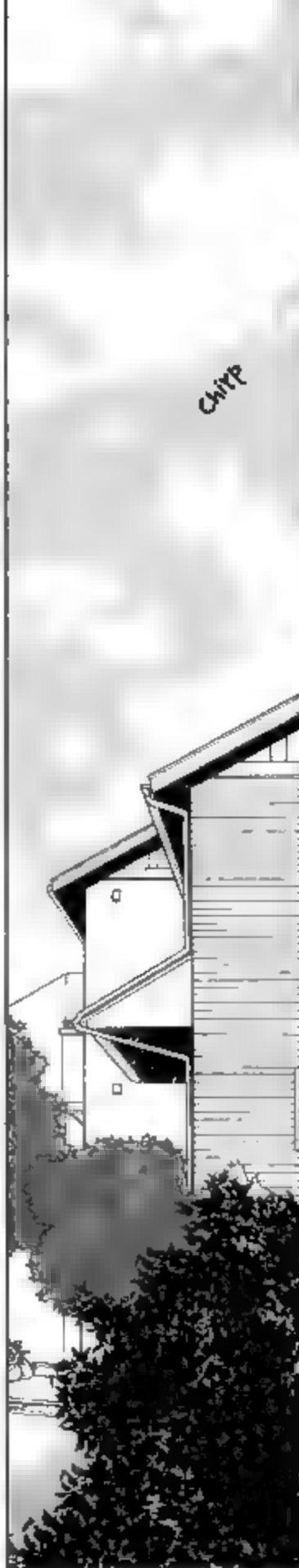


FLASH

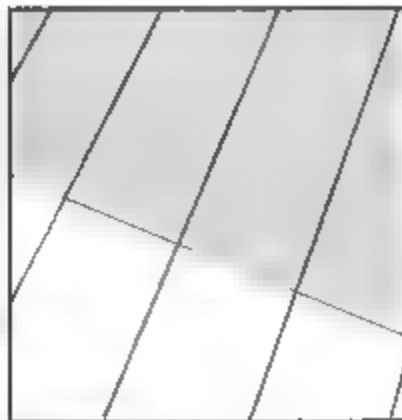
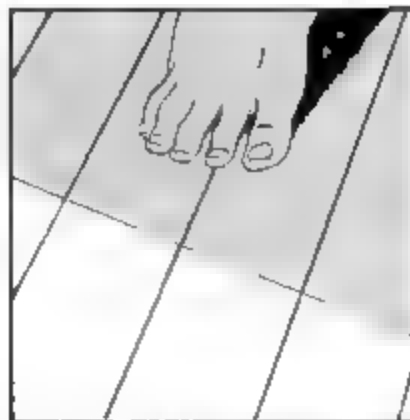
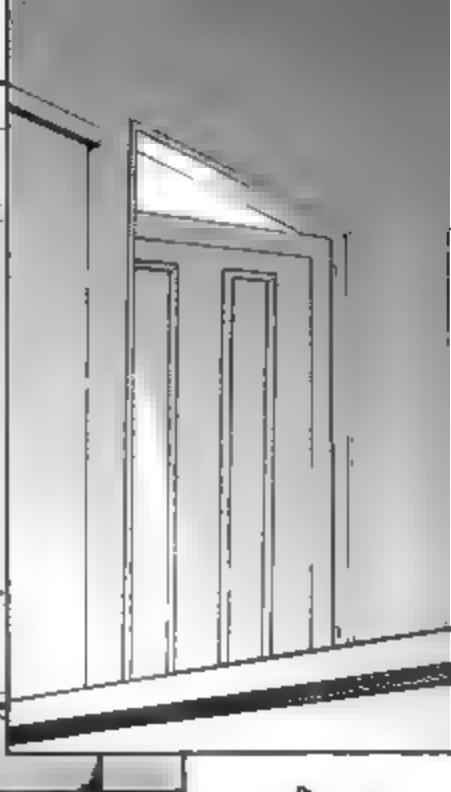




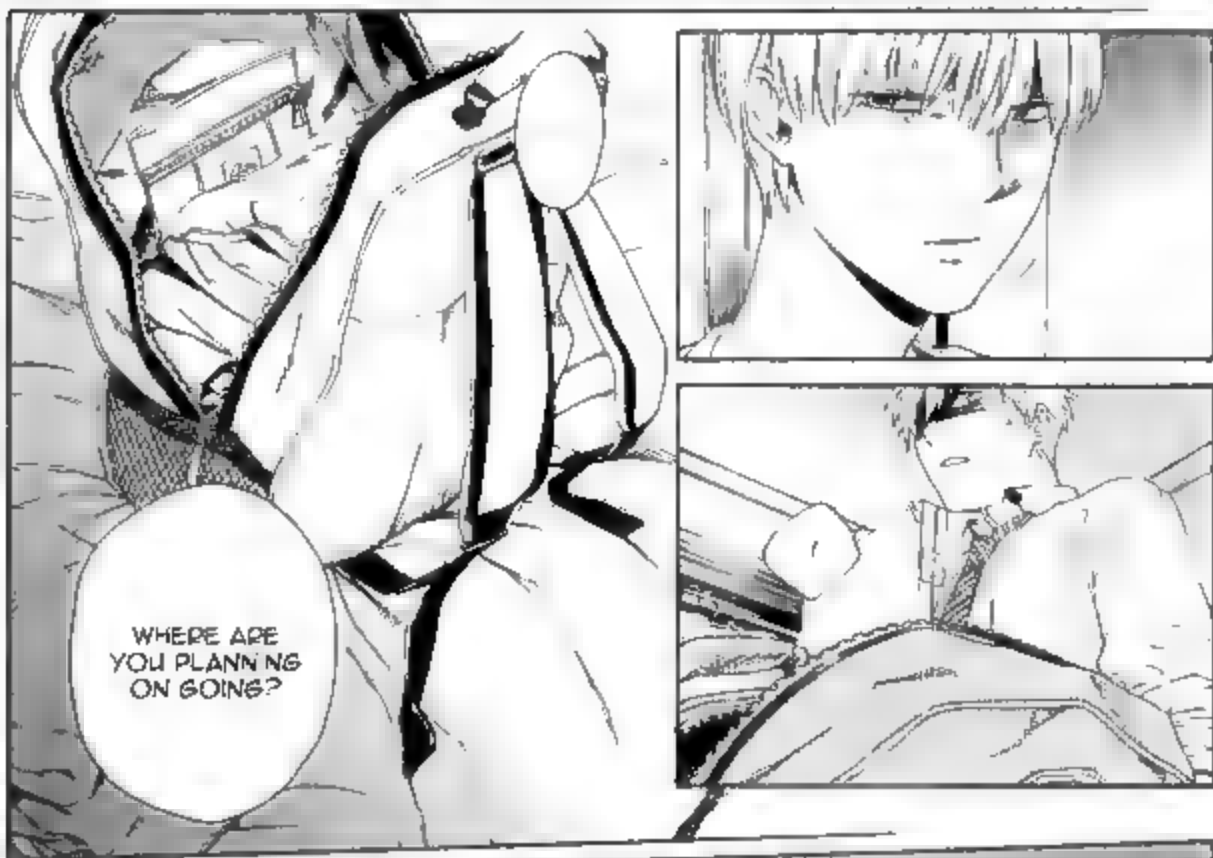
Chirp



Chirp



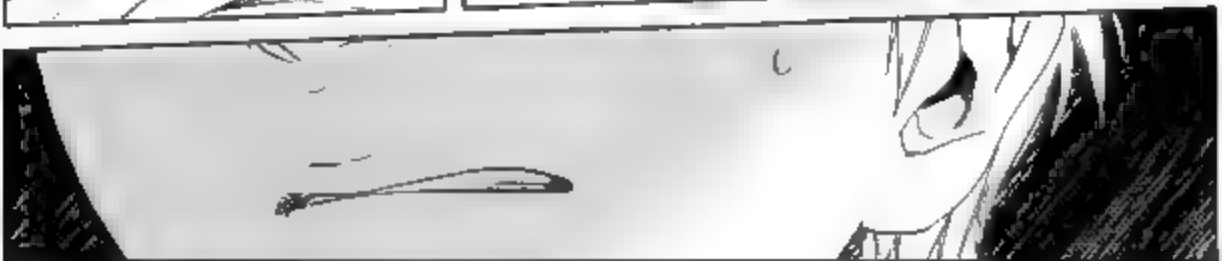
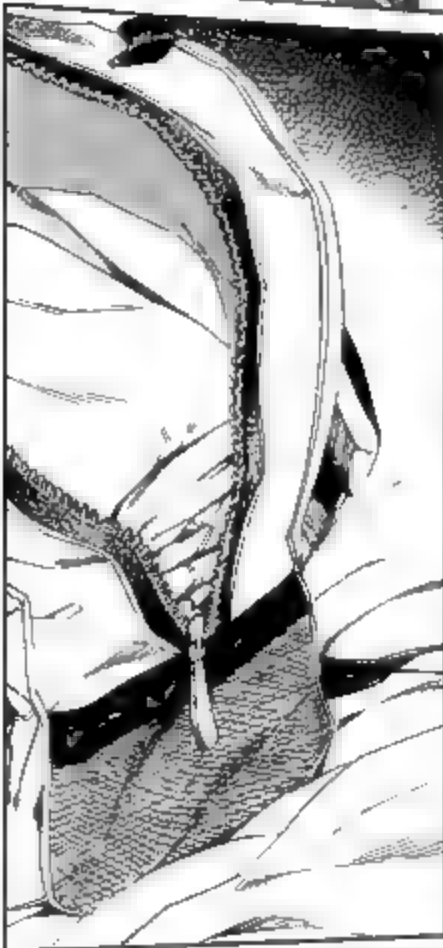








MY TRUE SELF





WHY AREN'T
YOU GIVING ME
AN EXCUSE?!

LIKE
YOU WERE
"FORCED"

...OR BEING
"BULLIED"?



..TSK

MY HEAD
HAS BEEN A
MESS SINCE
LAST NIGHT...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.



ON TOP OF
EVERYTHING,
IF YOU JUST
ADMIT IT LIKE
THAT,

I...

WOULD IT
CHANGE
ANYTHING?

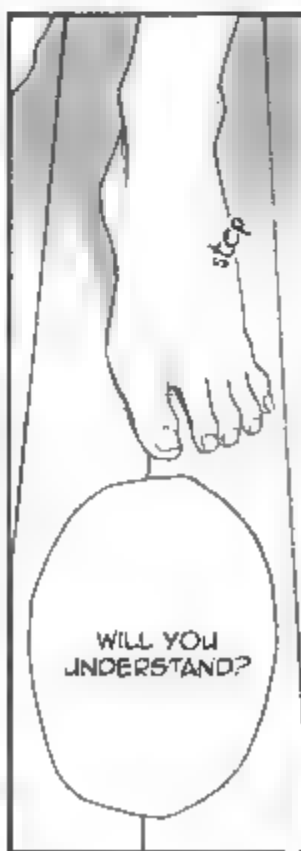


NOTHING



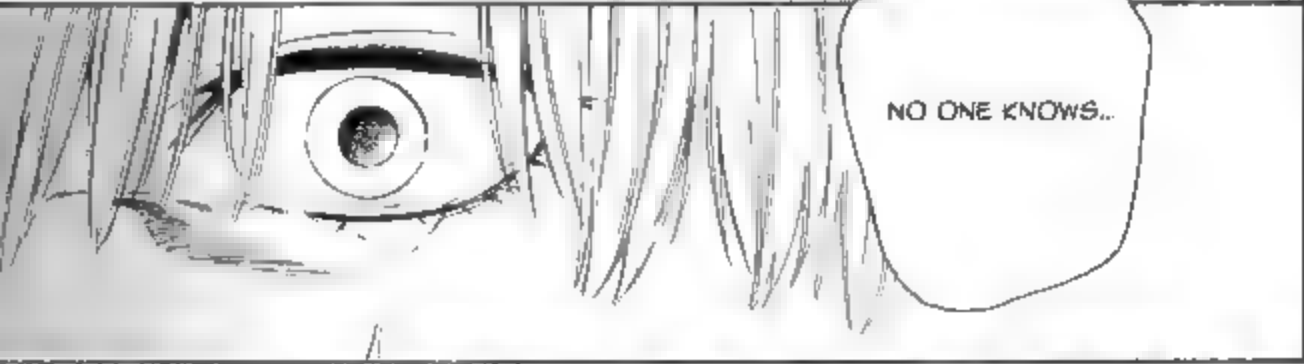
EVEN IF I
CAME UP WITH
AN EXCUSE...
WHAT'S GOING
TO CHANGE?







NO ONE
UNDERSTANDS



NO ONE KNOWS...



..WHO I REALLY AM.



SHALL I
TELL YOU?





WHY DO
YOU THINK...

ROKU,

WE CAME
INTO THIS
WORLD
SEPARATELY?



P!

WE USED
TO BE ONE.

OUR BLOOD,
OUR SKIN,
OUR BONES...
THEY ALL CAME
FROM THE SAME
PLACE



SO WHY ARE
OUR HEARTS SO
DIFFERENT?



THIS PART
OF ME HAS
BEEN EMPTY
FOREVER..



IT'S
BEEN...

clench



Wait..

TO
THE POINT
WHERE I'M
GOING MAD.

I'VE BEEN
ACHING AND
YEARNING..

NO MATTER
HOW HARD I
TRY TO FILL IT,
IT'S STILL
EMPTY



What is
he talking
about?



I'VE BEEN
LONGING FOR
SOMETHING
THAT DOESN'T
EXIST



*I'm short
of breath and
can't speak.*



...IS
SOMETHING
THAT I CAN
NEVER HAVE



SUBSTITUTES
JUST WON'T
DO THE TRICK

I KNEW IT
WOULD NEVER
WORK, BUT
I COULDN'T
HELP IT

Hold
on a
second.

THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO



WHAT
I TRULY
DESIRE...





SEE?

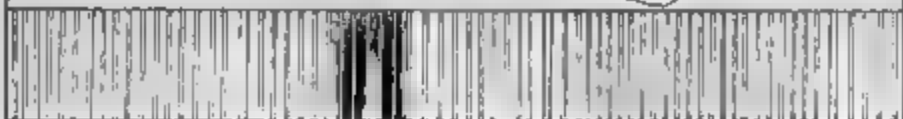
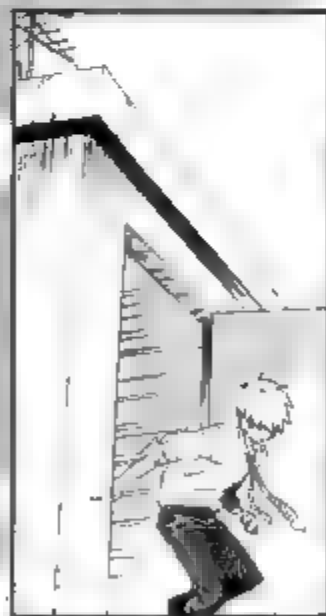
The hands which touched my face...

...were freezing cold.

Losing the power to think,
only a flood of questions
filled my mind.

"Since
when?"

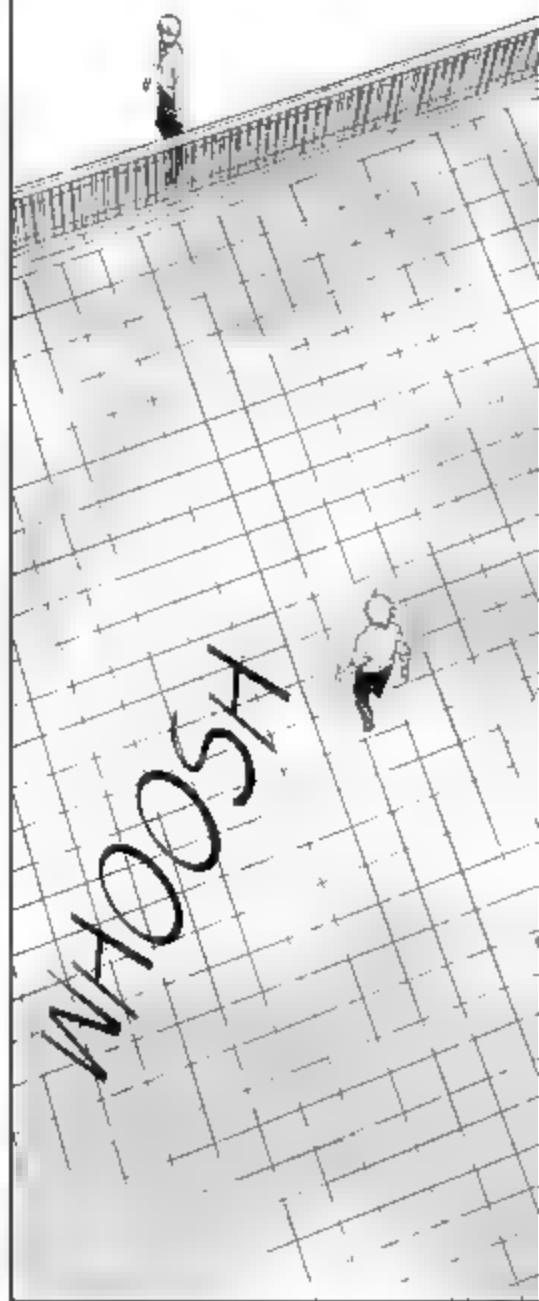
"Why?"





I didn't know.
I didn't notice anything...

...until that day.





I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SICK

ALWAYS...



I WANT IT
SO BADLY
I CAN'T
STAND IT,



BUT...

...MY WISH
WILL NEVER
COME TRUE

I'M ALSO
VERY AWARE
OF THAT

I
SHOULD
HAVE...



...UNDER-
STOOD
THAT LONG
AGO,
BUT ..



Up until that day,

IT'S FINE.

I...!

KEI,



exactly how many times had I hurt you?

IT'S FINE,

ROKU.



But...



...even so...

TSK...



there's nothing
I can say that
matters anymore.



Now that I've finally noticed,





NOTHING.



*Even if I was
being irresponsible
or insensitive,*



Still, L.,



I didn't want to accept that as the answer.